

THE
HUSBAND.

In ANSWER to
The W I F E.



L O N D O N :

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THE
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IN ANSWER TO

The W. I. B.

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Just publish'd,

The W I F E.

By the same AUTHOR.

Printed for T. GARDER in the Strand.

(Price Three Shillings bound.)



THE HUSBAND.

BOOK I.

INTRODUCTION,

*Addressed to all who either already are,
or ever intend to become Husbands.*



THE wife will never set out on any important enterprize, without maturely weighing what steps are necessary to be taken in order to attain the end proposed; — and as there is no one thing, nor indeed all things put together, can be of the thousandth part of that consequence which

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mar-

marriage is, it very much concerns every man who enters into that state to consider seriously on the true intent of the sacred ordination, and he will then find that he ought not to depend entirely on the virtue and good conduct of his wife, for the security of his honour, his interest, and his peace of mind ; but that he himself is also bound, by obligations no less essential to their mutual happiness than any can be requir'd from her.

A man deeply enamour'd, either with the beauty or the fortune of his mistress, centers his whole ambition in the gratification of his passion with the enjoyment of which ever of these two objects it is that inflames him, and seldom thinks of any farther happiness in marriage ; — it is not therefore to the lover, but to the husband I address these pages. — The one, I know, is deaf to all remonstrances ; but the other, having obtain'd his wishes, will naturally look about him, and begin to consider on what will be the most likely means both to prolong and to increase his present felicity.

I believe every man who becomes a husband desires to live amicably with his wife ; and the greater share he has of honour, understanding, and good-nature,
the

BOOK I. *The* HUSBAND. 3

the more true sense will he have of the joys which flow from domestic harmony, and a perfect concurrence of sentiment with the person to whom he is united ; — but though this is a blessing which all in general aim at, yet I am sorry to observe, that few take any pains to attain it, and that some of those who do, pursue it by such methods as lead directly to the reverse : — indeed I know not whether there are not, in effect, more couples render'd unhappy by a mistaken endeavour to fulfill what they look upon as their duty, than there are by a total inattention to it.

It is almost next to an impossibility either for the husband or the wife to be perfectly acquainted with the disposition and humour of each other before they come to live together ; — in the days of courtship both but act a part, and in many things seem what they are not ; — love favours the deception, and holds close the mask : — conscious, therefore, of their own insincerity in this point, great allowances ought to be made by each for whatever deficiencies may be afterwards discover'd, especially by the man, who will seldom be found the least dissembler of the two.

4 *The* HUSBAND. Book I.

This is so known a truth, that I think no husband has room to accuse me of having given a partial sentence; — nor should I have made any mention of it, but to remind both parties, that they ought to behave after marriage, as near as possible, up to the character they assum'd before; and as perfection is not to be found on this side the grave, not to expect things which are out of nature, but to forgive each other's failings while they endeavour to reform their own.

I have already in a little treatise set forth, according to the best of my judgment, the manner in which a wife should regulate her conduct, so as to shew marriage in that amiable light it ought to appear; — but my design would be uncompleat, and the success uncertain, if the husband does not contribute something on his part: — I have therefore, in the following sheets, taken the liberty to put him in mind of what the consideration of his own honour, his reputation in the world, his interest, and the solemn vow he made before the altar, demand from him, and am not without some flattering hopes, that the hints I have given for that purpose will not be entirely thrown away,

SECT.



S E C T. I.

Concerning a too great tenaciousness of the boasted superiority of mankind, and how very much it behoves a Husband to avoid indulging that disposition in himself.

TH E R E are some men, too many I am afraid, who value themselves more upon their sex than they do upon their virtue or endowments; and, merely because they are men, imagine they have a right not only to command, but to exact a blind, implicit, and indeed a slavish obedience from their wives; — to them it seems not enough that a woman readily complies with every injunction laid upon her by her conjugal sovereign, — she must also submit her understanding to his will, — think as he does, — have no judgment of her own, but take for almighty reason whatever he is pleas'd to dictate to her.

I know of nothing that is more stinging to a woman of sense and spirit than an immoderate exertion of this prerogative; — and tho' the word obey is insert-

6 *The* HUSBAND. BOOK I.

ed in the marriage ceremony, they are apt to think themselves not bound to observe it, because the form was composed by men, who they judge have been too partial to themselves in that article. — I have heard several ladies argue upon this head in these or the like terms :

‘ There is no difference of sex in souls,
 ‘ say they, — nor do we find there was
 ‘ any distinction of superiority between
 ‘ our first parents while in their state
 ‘ of innocence ; — after the fall, indeed,
 ‘ the curse of subordination was laid on Eve
 ‘ for her transgression, and continued on
 ‘ her whole female race during the first ages
 ‘ of the world ; but when the redemption
 ‘ of mankind came by a woman, the sex
 ‘ retriev’d its former honour, and has
 ‘ well atton’d for the great offence by a
 ‘ yet greater benefit.’

I will not take upon me either to defend or to refute the justice of these kinds of arguments ; — I shall only say, that as custom has for so long a succession of time, in all nations of the known world, given the supremacy to the husband, no prudent wife will attempt to infringe it, or oppose his will in things which are not in themselves unreasonable ; — but then, on the other hand, neither custom

SECT. I. *The* HUSBAND. 7

nor the marriage institution, whether consider'd in a religious or a moral sense, can justify him for delivering his commands with an imperious and arbitrary air, as if he meant to enforce obedience; and it is not to be wonder'd at if a woman, on such a behaviour, does not begin to call in question the lawfulness of his authority, and look upon him rather as her tyrant than her rightful sovereign.

I have observed that, generally speaking, men of the least capacities are the most assuming in this point; and indeed nothing can be so impolitic, or so inconsistent with good sense, as it destroys the very end for which it is put in practice, turns love into hatred, and esteem into contempt.

What degree of affection or regard is it likely a woman can retain for a man, who having treated her with the lowest and most fawning submissions while her lover, no sooner becomes her husband than he affects to be her master? — When, instead of being humour'd, flatter'd, and indulg'd, she finds herself treated, in effect, little better than an upper servant? — Will not such a reverse of behaviour towards her equally alarm both her love and pride? and it is well if the latter of

these passions does not totally extinguish whatever she had felt for him of the former.

A wife who knows and fulfils the duties of her place, stands not in need of any remonstrances ; and the ignorant and perverse will never be amended by austerity : — tenderness and complaisance will make a generous and good-natur'd woman endeavour to improve herself in all those qualities which merit such a treatment ; and may possibly work on one who is morose and uncomplying to become more flexible and obliging : — whereas on the contrary, a haughty magisterial way of behaviour carries with it great danger of rendering the good less good, and will infallibly make the bad much worse.

It fell in my way, some few years ago to be witness of an instance of this kind which, as example is of more prevalence than admonition, I think not improper to be inserted : — A gentleman of my particular acquaintance, who is unhappily of the humour I am speaking of, was then lately married to a young lady endow'd with many good qualities, and I believe would have made a very obliging wife, had she been united with a man of

suitable

SECT. I. *The* HUSBAND. 9

suitable disposition; but had something too haughty in her nature to be subservient when she found it was expected from her.

It seems he had taken it into his head, one morning, to dislike the placing of his bed, and told his wife he would have it remov'd to the other side of the room; — she laugh'd at the caprice, and represented to him how preposterous such a change would be according to the position of the chamber: — he vouchsafed not to argue with her, but said he would have it so. — It is possible she thought no more of it; but he, however, when he went out called on an upholsterer, and order'd him to go to his house and take down such a bed, and put it up again as he directed. — I happen'd to be there when the man came; — the lady was extremely surprized, and said she could not have imagin'd her husband would have persisted in so odd a fancy; — that she was sorry he had given him the trouble of coming, but could not consent, by any means, that the bed should be remov'd; as it would not only be ugly, but extremely incommodious; and appeal'd to his opinion, which he readily gave on her side the question, and took his leave.

My friend came home soon after, and when he had paid his compliments to me, went into his bed-chamber, I suppose to see if his orders had been complied with; — and finding they were not, return'd with a good deal of discomposure in his looks, — ‘What is the meaning of this, madam! said he to his wife, — Did not the fellow come to take down the bed!’ — ‘Yes, replied she, but I sent him away again: — I am sure if it had been done you would not have endur'd to lie in it, as the door opens close to the one side, and there would be scarce room to pass on the other.’ — ‘I should have been the best judge, resum'd he, when I had seen the alteration made; but if there were a thousand inconveniencies you knew it was my will it should be so; — and sure I ought to be master of my own house.’ — ‘If you were resolved to be sole master,’ cried she, blushing with indignation, ‘you should not have taken a mistress. — Nor should you have taken a husband,’ retorted he, ‘till you had been better instructed in your duty.’

‘Duty! cried she impatiently.’ — ‘Yes, madam, replied he, with no less eagerness, — Duty! — When I made
‘you

SECT. I. *The HUSBAND.* II

‘ you mistress over my family I never intended to make you mistress over myself. — The best quality a wife can be possess’d of is her obedience to the commands of her husband; — and you ought to have known, that after marriage it would not be your province to dispute, but to submit to whatever I should think fit to enjoin.’

I could perceive by her looks that she was about to make some answer which would not be very agreeable to his present humour; therefore, to prevent his hearing it, took him into the bed-chamber under pretence of giving my opinion concerning the motive of their present contest. — I spar’d no arguments to make him sensible how much his lady was in the right, and how extremely improper the alteration he propos’d would have been. — I easily saw he was convinced of this himself, tho’ he would not in plain terms acknowledge it, and only said, that how improper soever the thing would have appear’d, his wife ought to have complied with it.

The debate, however, might possibly have ended here, if on our return she had not began to reproach him for the manner in which he treated her: — he

told her, he would always maintain the authority of a husband; and she as stubbornly replied, she never would submit to it; and this, by degrees, drew on the most bitter altercations: — at last she flew out of the room ready to burst with rage; — I follow'd, and endeavour'd to persuade her that with a man of his temper softness was the only way to conquer; but she would listen to nothing I said upon that score: — I then went back to him, and urged all the reasons I could think of to prevail on him, for the sake of peace, to be more moderate in the exertion of his authority as a husband; — to which he replied, with a disdainful smile, — That he would be no woman's fool; — that he knew what he had to do, and was only sorry she had so proud a spirit, because it would give him the more pains to humble it.

Finding the good offices I had interpos'd had so little effect, either on the one or the other, I took my leave, full of forebodings of what would be the consequence of a marriage between two persons whose humours were so ill suited.

This was, indeed, the first, but not the last quarrel which the unhappy pair had on the subject of that superiority so
stiffly

SECT. I. *The* HUSBAND. 13

stiffly asserted by the one, and so resolutely denied by the other. — Their life together was an almost continual scene of dissention, till tir'd with the tyranny of a husband, she flew to the embraces of a lover, with whom she went to Paris, and still resides there.

This, or something as bad, will ever be the event, when two persons link'd together in the bands of love and amity, instead of mutually pursuing that regular course for which they were united, endeavour to run counter, and struggle with each other for the mastery.

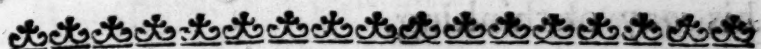
No one is more sensible of the duty of a wife than myself; and I believe those who shall read my admonitions to the ladies on that score, will not accuse me of any partiality to the sex: — they must be allow'd to have their passions as well as the men, and why should it be expected that they are better able to subdue them? — I think I do no more than justice when I say, that tho' they may have a certain pride and vanity, which renders them impatient of controul, yet there is a softness and generosity, generally speaking, in their natures, which makes them better pleas'd to oblige than to offend; and they

they will do many things through love, which they would never be subjected to thro' fear.

I am pretty confident that the disobedience so much complain'd of in wives, is in a great measure, if not chiefly, owing to the too great authority assum'd by the husband. — I have known a man find fault with his wife for doing the very things he wanted to have done, merely because she had not waited to receive his commands for that purpose ; and I have known a woman refuse to do what most her inclination led her to, only because commanded in an improper manner.

How absurd is it, therefore, in a man to indulge a propensity, which, by making him aim at attracting a greater share of homage than he has a right to expect, robs him of all which is really his due, and he would otherwise receive ; — utterly destroys his own happiness, and that of the woman whom he is bound to love ; and, in fine, perverts every end for which marriage was ordain'd ?





S E C T. II.

A method which, if observ'd by a Husband on his first marriage, may contribute towards making him live happily afterwards with his Wife.

THOUGH I can ill endure to see a man treat his wife in an imperious and domineering manner, yet I am as far remov'd from wishing to see him too subservient: — in this, as in most other things, the golden mean should be observed; — nor will a prudent woman, how much soever idolized before marriage, expect, or even desire, the same fawning submissions afterwards; for that would be to destroy all the freedom and sincerity which makes a great part of the happiness of that state.

Whatever superiority in fact may be the husband's due, he ought to carry it so as if he knew it not himself; — the injunctions he lays upon his wife should have the shew rather of requests than commands; and in case of any opposition on her part, it is by arguments, not by

com-

compulsion, he should bring her over to his way of thinking.

But then, on the other hand, I would never have a man suffer himself to be led, by the insinuations of a beloved wife, to act in any way contrary to his honour, his reputation, or his interest; — never compliment her humour at the expence of his own understanding, nor behave towards her in such a manner as might give her room to flatter herself she had gain'd such an ascendant over him.

A woman must be endow'd with an uncommon share of wisdom, a true sense of her duty, and what was owing from her both to herself and husband, who by such a method of proceeding would not be entirely spoil'd; — one of weaker intellects would be so intoxicated with her power as to stop at nothing which vanity or caprice could suggest.

It is certain, whatever the ladies may pretend, that no woman really expects to do every thing she pleases after she becomes a wife; that husband therefore, who has the address to set bounds to her inclination, without seeming to do so, has much the fairest chance for happiness in marriage.

If

If there were a possibility for us to look into the secret sources of those disagreements which happen between married people, I dare believe we should find them rise not so much from the vices or ill qualities either of the one or the other, as from some little oddities of humour, which if not well attended to are apt to occasion mistakes in conduct, frequently fatal to the peace of both parties.

Most of the irregularities of our lives being owing to want of thought and a due examination of ourselves, no man of sense, and who desires to act well, will neglect so great a point; and I cannot help being of opinion, that, as a wife is a second self, it is equally necessary for a husband to penetrate, as far as he is able, into the recesses of her heart, to the end he may, by gentle means, for no other will besit his purpose, root out thence every lurking toible which might impede their mutual happiness.

When a husband, by the strength of his judgment, his virtue, and his assiduity, is able to correct not only his own frailties, but also to wean his wife from those to which she may be addicted, then will the sacred ends of matrimony be fulfilled.

fulfilled, — then will two persons, indeed, be actuated but by one soul, — their minds, their actions sweetly correspond with each other, — then may the words of Mr. Waller be justly apply'd to such a couple :

- ‘ Not the silver doves that fly,
- ‘ Yoak’d in Cytherus car ;
- ‘ Not the wings that soar so high,
- ‘ And convey her sons so far,
- ‘ With more kind consent do move,
- ‘ Or do more ennobled love.’

Let no one imagine I am presenting a child of my own brain, a mere visionary impracticable scheme ; — what I propose may doubtless be accomplish’d, and I more than believe has been prov’d in some instances I could mention ; — the very attempt, however, is laudable, and well worthy of a husband’s pains, — and I dare answer, that he who sets himself seriously about it will find his account in a more or less degree.

It has often seem’d strange to me, that a man should be so assiduous in gaining the affection of a woman before he marries her, and become afterwards so neglectful of the means either to preserve that affection, or to direct it in such a manner

SECT. 2. *The* HUSBAND. 19

manner of behaviour as can alone render it a real and substantial blessing.

Methinks a husband would do well, very soon after the object of his wishes loses the name of bride in that of wife, to begin to treat her exactly in the same fashion he resolves to do during his whole life ; — the submissions and adulations of a lover should be thrown aside, but all the tenderness remain ; — he should not, by any word, look, or gesture, give her the least reason either to hope he would be her slave, or to fear he intended to become her master ; — he ought early to make her well acquainted with every thing he expected from her, and what she had to expect from him ; but he must be very careful to do this in such terms as shall make her rather pleas'd with than offended at it.

Suppose, when they were alone together, he takes an opportunity of entertaining her in these or the like terms :

‘ I am now, my dear, as happy as my
‘ utmost wish could make me ; — pos-
‘ sels'd of all I ever did or ever can love ;
‘ — the tender assurances you have given
‘ me make me confident you are not
‘ dissatisfied

' dissatisfied with the change of your
 ' condition ; — it depends not on one,
 ' but both of us, to render the felicity
 ' we now enjoy as lasting as it is great ;
 ' — the union into which we have enter'd
 ' leaves us no separate interests, no di-
 ' vided inclinations ; — our honour, our
 ' fortunes, are the same ; — whatever is
 ' mine is yours, and whatever is yours is
 ' mine ; — nothing can happen to either
 ' of us without the other being equally
 ' affected ; — like the twin stars in the
 ' zodiac, we must move together or be
 ' lost in darkness. — I doubt not, my
 ' dear, but you have consider'd this as
 ' well as I, and will do every thing on
 ' your part to promote our mutual wel-
 ' fare, as I shall never fail to do on
 ' mine.'

After some such sort of prelude as this,
 he may venture to proceed, according as
 their station and circumstances are, to the
 particulars of what he thinks necessary
 for her to perform ; — this manner of
 talking to her may perhaps have more
 effect upon her than the promise she
 made at the altar ; as there are too many
 who repeat the words of that binding
 ceremony without considering what they
 are about, or ever thinking of it after-
 wards, her answers at least will enable
 him

SECT. 3. *The* HUSBAND. 21

him to judge of the real dispositions of her mind, and that knowledge direct him how to fashion his future conduct towards her.



S E C T. III.

How far a Wife ought to be entrusted with the Secrets of her Husband in whatever regards the circumstances of his Fortune.

A Wife being the sharer in the fortune of her husband, whether it prov'd good or bad, has an undoubted right to be made acquainted with the whole truth of his affairs, nor ought he by any means to go about to conceal or disguise from her the least part of them, but with the keys of his cabinets, give her also those of his circumstances.

If it should so happen that he labours under any disadvantages or embarrassments, which the fears of losing her may have made him hide from her before marriage, they should all be laid open afterwards, and the sooner he does this the better, she must know them some time or other,

other, — and what time so proper to obtain her forgiveness as when their loves are at their height, and the bridal kiss not yet worn off their lips?

Besides the confidence this will give her in his love and honour, it will save him abundance of needless excuses for avoiding many things too expensive for him to afford, but which she might probably expect while she believ'd him in more easy circumstances.

I know very well that there are many men, who, thro' the apprehensions that such an eclaircissement would occasion a quarrel, delay making it as long as they can; — according to the old adage, — they are willing to put off the evil day; — but, in my opinion, this is extremely impolitic; in spite of the precautions and pretences he can make use of there is no possibility of concealing such things from a wife; — she will find them out by degrees, and every fresh discovery will rise to fresh upbraidings.

I cannot, indeed, promise that every woman would support, with all the meekness her husband might wish, the first intelligence of a deception of such a kind had been put upon her; but of this I am certain

certain, that she would resent it less if coming from his mouth than from that of any other person; — especially as he might find means to soften the shock, by protesting to her, that nothing could have made him guilty of concealing any thing from her, but the fears he had that the knowledge of his misfortune might make him seem less worthy of her affection.

If I know any thing of womankind, and sure I think I do, they are easily brought to pardon whatever is instigated by love, their darling passion; — the motive, with them, gives a sanction to the crime; — as the poet very truly says,

‘ The faults of love by love are justified.’

It is in the power of a man to reconcile a woman, who tenderly loves him, to almost any thing; — but then he must attempt it by flattery and soft persuasion; and in the case I mention a little exaggeration of his passion is excusable.

I would not by this be understood to recommend dissimulation; — no, I detest the mean ungenerous vice, and heartily condemn all who make a practice of it;

it; but I hope, and take it for granted, that no man becomes a husband without having some affection for the woman he makes his wife; and if, in the point I am speaking of, he somewhat magnifies, and represents the real tenderness he has for her in the most passionate terms he can invent, I think it cannot be imputed to him as a crime, since it is no more than what he doubtless did before marriage, and what I am pretty well assured all men do in their days of courtship.

When there are no concealments before marriage, all this is happily prevented; — it would be needless therefore to say any more upon the subject, and I shall only add a word or two concerning secrets, which may possibly be repos'd by some friend in the breast of a husband, and have no manner of relation to his own affairs.

If I have so good an opinion of a man as to entrust him with the keeping of my cash, I should take it very ill of him if he lent it out, or converted it to any other uses, without my privity or consent: — Of how much more value then, and great consequence, may some time a secret be? — No moral obligation ought

SECT. 3. *The* HUSBAND. 25

to be held so sacred, nor is there any thing so base as the abuse of such a confidence.

As I believe that no one will offer any arguments to confute this assertion, I shall make no scruple to tell every husband, that as little as I can excuse him from maintaining any reserve towards his wife in matters relating only to himself, I should as little excuse him for complimenting her curiosity with what is none of his own to give; — nor has she, indeed, any reason to expect, or to desire such a thing; and he would be guilty of the greatest weakness and ungenerosity to comply with her request, even tho' she should press it in the most strenuous and pathetic terms.

Let not the vain pert coxcombs of the age, who lay out all their little stock of wit in ridiculing womankind, imagine I have given them a fresh opportunity to exert their talents; — nor let the ladies infer from what I have said, that I look upon them as incapable of keeping a secret; for I am very well convinced, that there are a great many of the sex who would not be tempted, by any consideration whatever, to divulge what had been once intrusted to them. — All women, however, have not this happy gift of taciturnity; and I must here

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beg leave to make this observation, that those who are in reality possess'd of it, will be too just and too discreet to urge their husbands to a thing which they would not be guilty of themselves.

The intention of these sheets being to promote a lasting happiness in marriage, as far as is in the power of the little hints I am able to give, by shewing a husband both what he ought and what he ought not to do, in order to contribute all he can for that end, I should have thought my remonstrances very imperfect without warning him against making his wife a confidant in such things, which, if disclos'd by her in any unguarded moment, might prove fatal to all future harmony between them.





S E C T. IV.

*Interfering too much in those things
which properly are under the direc-
tion of a Wife.*

BEFORE I enter on any discourse on this subject, I think it highly necessary to examine a little into the merits of the cause, to the end no husband may imagine he has reason to accuse me of partiality in what I am about to say.

The virgin is no sooner made a bride than she is put in possession of her husband's house; — the keys of every thing in it are immediately deliver'd into her hands; — all the servants, except where there is a valet de chambre or an apprentice, are henceforward to receive their orders from her, and to be continued in the family or discharg'd according to her pleasure: — in fine, the whole management and direction of domestic affairs are committed to her care.

Nor does she look upon all this as a delegated authority, but as a lawful right to which marriage has entitled her, and

is, generally speaking, more tenacious of it than of any other privilege whatsoever: a husband therefore, who has any regard for the peace of his family, or living in amity with his wife, will never attempt to break in on so darling a point.

Besides, — women, both by nature and education, are best fitted for the management of household affairs, — it is properly their province, — reason as well as custom establishes them in it; and in my opinion, a man who pretends to pry into the business of his kitchen or laundry, makes as awkward a figure as a woman would do in a fencing-school or a tennis-court.

Here occurs to my remembrance a passage I formerly read in one of our old poets, I think it was Michael Drayton, which, though wrote on a quite different occasion, is perfectly applicable to this I am speaking of; — the words are these:

- ‘ Each in their own appointed spheres
- ‘ should move,
- ‘ When either, from those bounds, at-
- ‘ tempt to rove,
- ‘ There ends all concord, harmony,
- ‘ and love.’

Among

Among the number of my readers, I do not doubt but that there are very many husbands who will be greatly offended on the score of this article, and be apt to exclaim against me in the following manner, or something like it:

‘ The author of this book must certainly be a fool ; — the advice it contains is very fine truly, and worthy of being observ’d by all husbands who would be chronicled for tame suffering asses. — According to the rules here prescribed, I must see the best apartment in my house converted into a jakes, — the floor stinking with grease, — the walls cover’d with cobwebs, — the furniture rotting with dust, — my table poorly and injudiciously supply’d, — the provisions ill cook’d and worse decorated, — my servants wasting that time I so largely pay them for, either in romping with each other at home, or in gadding perpetually abroad, — the most shameful neglect of decency and good order in every thing about me ; yet all this I must submit to bear, — be entirely passive, and find no fault because it is my wife who has the direction and management of these things.’

All this, and much more, it is possible, may be said, — yet I am not without hope of reconciling myself to these angry gentlemen, if they vouchsafe to keep me company a little farther.

If the abovemention'd accusations, or indeed any part of them, have their foundation on truth, I cannot think a husband, who thus greatly suffers, is bound, either by love or complaisance, to feign a contentment he is far from feeling; — as he had a right to tell his wife what he expected from her, so he has also a right to reprove her when neglecting to comply with his reasonable injunctions; — but then I would have him do this with mildness, gently remonstrating to her how much her character suffers by her indolence, and entreating that for her own sake, as well as for his ease and peace of mind, she will hereafter preserve a better regulation in the family.

If this method should fail of success, and she either becomes outrageous and impatient on being reprimanded, or continues in her former remissness, he then doubtless may, and, according to my opinion, ought to take from her that power she has made so ill an use of, and give the

SECT. 4. *The* HUSBAND. 31

the charge of his domestic affairs to some person better qualified for that purpose, leaving to his neglectful wife only the name of mistress.

I flatter myself, however, that even in these times, when being the first in every new fashion, living more abroad than at home, gaming and midnight revelling, are more like the characteristics of a fine lady than modesty, sobriety, and oeconomy, there will not be many instances found to justify a husband's proceeding in this manner.

But it is not to those husbands who may unhappily meet with these or the like provocations that I direct this discourse; but to those who being married to women every way qualified and ready to discharge the trust reposed in them, yet by an odd propensity in nature are led to intermeddle with things quite out of their sphere, and indeed below the dignity of a man to concern himself with.

When a man takes it into his head to be present at the hiring of a new servant-maid, — questions her on what she is able to do, — cavils with her on the article of afternoons tea, and going out every other sunday to visit an old aunt

or cousin, — is always running into his kitchen while the victuals is dressing, — ordering how the sauces shall be made, — giving directions concerning the stirring of the fire, so as to render it either concave or convex, according as he thinks the meat to be roasted or boil'd requires, — enters into a learned dissertation on nutmegs, and whether they are best pounded in a mortar or grated, for minced-pyes, and a thousand other discourses of the same nature: — I say, when a man gives himself this unbecoming trouble, he is sure of being laugh'd at by his servants, and seldom fails of being despised by his wife.

I shall close what I have to say upon this head with a little incident, the truth of which I can aver: — A smart young lady of my acquaintance happen'd to be married to a gentleman of the cast I am speaking of; — she soon perceived this humour in him, and resolv'd to break him of it, if possible, by fair means; — the method she took was this: — one day when she catch'd him haranguing in the kitchen, she said nothing but went directly into the stable, where she enter'd into a conversation with the groom on the management of horses.

The

The husband soon after missing her, and being told where she was gone, was a little surpriz'd, and immediately follow'd her, — 'What has brought you hither, my dear, cried he.' — 'I should not have wonder'd if any one except yourself had ask'd that question, replied she, with a smile; — but I cannot help thinking that I make as good a figure in the stable as you do in the kitchen; and that it becomes me full as well to enquire how many oats your horse eats in a week, as for you to examine how many eggs I order my maid to put into a pudding.'

Conscious of the justice of this repartie, and sensibly touch'd with it, he blush'd, — hung down his head, but had not power to speak a word: — she saw the effect of what she had said, and resum'd her discourse with the same sprightliness and good-humour she had began, — 'Lookye, my dear, said she, I either am or am not qualified for the management of your domestic affairs. — If I am, I beg you will leave them entirely to me; — if I am not, let us change sides, — do you take upon you what is commonly the province of a wife, and I will endeavour to learn that of a hus-

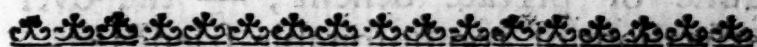
‘ band ; — for it would be too much for
 ‘ you to unergo the fatigue of both.’

I am told it was some time before he could recover himself enough to make any answer, but when he did so, it was in terms highly satisfactory to her, assuring her he was both convinced and ashamed of the folly of his past conduct, and that he would never more interfere with things so unbecoming his character.

I sincerely wish that all husbands, guilty of the same error, may be cur’d of it with the same ease ; since there are very few things more pernicious to the peace of a family than this, when too far indulg’d.



SECT.



S E C T. — V.

Drinking to an excess, and some other particulars which may happen to be disagreeable to a Wife.

A Drunkard is, I think, according to the common acceptation of the word, one who devotes himself entirely to his bottle or his pot, makes drinking the greatest part of his business, as it is his only pleasure; and if he chances to go sober to bed one night, regrets his loss of time, and complains that his evening has been murder'd. — Persons of this character I look upon as incorrigible, but by the hand of Heaven, and not to be reclaim'd without a miracle.

I have nothing therefore to say to such sort of men; — nor is it so much the vices, as the follies and inadvertencies into which human nature is liable to fall, that these admonitions are intended to reform. — A man may be seen in a condition such as discovers him to have drank too much, yet ought not to incur the appellation of a sot or drunkard: — a day of extraordinary rejoicings, for some

public or private benefit ; — the overpersuasions of too hospitable friends ; — an obligation to meet people on business at a tavern ; — a thousand accidents may sometimes happen to draw one of the most regular way of life and temperate inclinations, into an error of this kind ; for which he will afterwards pass a more severe censure on himself than he can possibly deserve from others.

But as it has often been prov'd, that by one unlucky turn a person shall forfeit all the reputation he has for years been labouring to acquire ; and nothing is more apt to excite disgust in a woman of delicacy, than to see the man she loves, transform'd like one of Circe's swine ; I would have every husband avoid the presence of his wife while he is in a state which will not only render him contemptible to her at that time, but the remembrance of may also utterly erase all the affection and respect she before had for him.

It may be objected that this is a thing very difficult, and almost impracticable ; because when the head of a man is made giddy with the fumes of liquor, he has not the use of his reason enough to make him know it would best become him to retire ;

retire ; and on the contrary, he is, for the most part, more desirous of shewing himself than usual. — This, indeed, is very certain, and I know but of one method to avoid it ; which, for the advantage of my married readers, I shall relate as it was first thought on by a gentleman of an allow'd good understanding, and I believe is practis'd by him to this very hour.

Soon after his marriage with a lady, whom he long had most passionately lov'd, and who is worthy of all the tenderness he has for her, he call'd his servant to him, and having made him shut the door, spoke to him in the following manner :

‘ Tom, said he, you know I hate drinking, — but such things will sometimes happen ; — I would not, however, for the world be seen by my wife in that condition ; — I desire therefore, that whenever you find me in it you will shew me into a chamber apart from her, and make some excuse to her for my chusing to sleep alone that night : — if I should prove refractory, as there is no answering for one's self when depriv'd of the use of right reason, I strictly charge and command you to have recourse to force ; — how angry so-
ever

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‘ ever I may then be, I will not fail to
‘ thank you for it in the morning.’

The fellow stared, and knew not what answer to make to so strange an injunction; but his master insisted on the performance, — repeated what he had said before, and added, with a smile, —
‘ Never fear, Tom, — how roughly so-
‘ ever you may find yourself oblig’d to
‘ handle me, you may depend that I
‘ will not only forgive, but likewise re-
‘ ward you for it.’ — On which Tom, perceiving he was in earnest, assur’d him of his obedience.

It was not long before an opportunity arriv’d to prove both his duty and address in this point: — the gentleman had been perswaded by some friends to go to a city-feast, and was brought home very much disorder’d. — Tom follow’d the directions which had been given him, and compell’d him to go into a chamber which he had caus’d to be made ready in case there should be any occasion for it; and having put him into bed, went to his lady and told her that his master begg’d to be excus’d sleeping with her that night on account of a violent headache. — ‘ Oh! cried she, I have some
‘ drops which are very excellent for ex-
‘ pelling

expelling that pain; — I will go and apply them to his temples.” — She was turning towards her closet in order to fetch the drops, but he stopt her by saying that his master was just fallen into a slumber, — but that he would watch by him all night, and if he found, on his waking, that there was any need of her assistance, would knock at her chamber door and give her notice.

The gentleman was very well pleas'd the next morning on hearing how the affair had been conducted, and did not forget the promise he had made to Tom: — he never intended, however, to keep it a secret from his wife; — he was not afraid she should know of his having drank a little too much, but loth she should see him in that condition: — he told her the whole story as they sat at breakfast, at which she laugh'd very heartily, and was highly satisfied within herself, taking this action, as it was really meant, a proof of his respect for her.

This free confession of the whole truth prevented her from being alarm'd when at any time he chose to sleep alone on account of the head-ach, and from ever being witness of any of those follies or indecencies he might possibly be guilty of during

during the absence of his reason ; — so that what might otherwise have been likely to create open clamours, and perhaps secret disgust, was, by this happy stratagem, converted into pleasantry and good-humour.

How widely different was this conduct from that of a certain nobleman, who having promis'd to sup one night with some friends, and not coming till they were almost ready to separate, made this polite apology to one of them who reproach'd him for his tardiness, — ' Faith, ' said he, it never came into my head ' till just now ; — I got drunk after ' dinner, — was carried home, — run ' my chairman thro' the arm for his ' sauciness, — kick'd my footman down ' stairs, — threw my wife into fits, and ' just then remembering my engagement ' with you, left the house in an uproar, ' and came directly away.'

A man who knows himself liable to commit such extravagancies ought, doubtless, to take all the measures he can to keep them from the sight of every one ; but much more of his wife, whose love and esteem it so much concerns him to preserve, even tho' he should unhappily have no proportionate regard for her.

There

There are also other particulars, which tho' of much less importance, may chance to be equally disagreeable to some very nice lady ; — such as smoaking, or chewing tobacco ; or even taking snuff, especially in bed, a custom too frequently put in practice, tho' a thing dirty in itself, and extremely offensive to those who are oblig'd to sleep with them.

I know very well that none of these things, when once become habitual, are easily thrown off, and am afraid there are not many husbands who would be willing to indulge the humour of their wives with such a piece of self-denial : — indeed I scarce dare offer my advice in this point ; because their compliance might be too severe a mortification, and give a sourness to their behaviour, of yet worse consequence in other respects.

A man, however, who finds his wife has an aversion to the smell of tobacco, may, I think, without much difficulty, avoid letting her ever see him with a pipe in his mouth ; — he may order some nook or corner in his house to be set apart, to which he may retire when inclination prompts him to enjoy that favourite amusement, and having taken as much of it as
he

he thinks fit, there are various sorts of comfits, which, if swallow'd, will entirely purify his breath from the late fumes.

The same method may be observ'd in chewing of tobacco; — and as for taking it in snuff, the most effectual one I can propose, is to make her a present of some fine well fancied curious snuff-box, which if he does, I dare wager the odds of an hundred against one, that the vanity of shewing that toy wherever she goes, will, by degrees, make the powder contain'd in it not only familiar, but also pleasing to her.

If a husband will give himself the pains to consider seriously that his honour and reputation are entirely in the keeping of his wife, and must be establish'd or ruin'd by her conduct; — that his fortune, in a great measure, depends upon her prudence and œconomy; — and his own peace and that of his family, on her cheerfulness and affability, he will not think that even greater condescensions than those I have mention'd would be too much to keep her in good-humour, and root in her heart that affection for him, which alone can secure all that either is or ought to be valuable to a husband, — as I re-
member

remember to have read in the tag of an old Spanish comedy,

- ‘ Would you preserve the fair one just
‘ and kind,
- ‘ Be sure to clap a padlock on her
‘ mind.

Certain it is, that tho’ an exalted virtue, and such a one it must be in a wife, may make her patient, faithful, obliging, diligent, and obedient: in fine, make her neglect nothing that can be requir’d from her station and character; — yet without love, whatever she does will appear faint, languid, and spiritless; — she will be incapable either of giving or receiving any pleasure in the performance of her duty; — so absolutely necessary to the true end of marriage is that passion; and so much is it the interest of every husband to cherish it, both in himself and the woman to whom he is united, — according to the words of a celebrated author of our own nation, who was himself well acquainted with the force of love, and on all occasions is very emphatic on the subject:

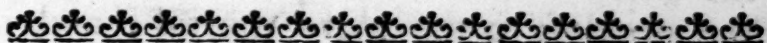
‘ Love

- ' Love quickens duty, — gives our
- ' cares delight,
- ' Makes happy days more joyous,
- ' and more bright,
- ' And spreads a sunbeam thro' afflictions night.'

But I believe there is no need of any quotations to prove the truth of this assertion, else could bring many from the same learned author ; — the little knowledge I have of human nature is sufficient to inform me, that there is no one person so little sensible of the tender passion as not to allow that with it all things are agreeable, — and that without it nothing can be truly so ; — cultivate it therefore in your wives, O all ye husbands, — it is the first and greatest point you have to aim at in marriage, as it is the only one which, in fact, has the power of conferring on either of the persons united in that sacred state any degree of sincere and permanent felicity.



S E C T.



S E C T. VI.

The manner in which a Husband ought to behave towards his Wife in public Company.

THERE is so very little to be said on this subject, that many of my readers may be apt to question whether it deserv'd to be mention'd at all; and, indeed, there is great probability that it would have found no place among these admonitions, if the complaints of some ladies had not prevail'd on me to think that without it my design in this work would have been incomplete.

In compliance, therefore, with requests, which with me have all the force of commands, I shall take the liberty of reminding husbands in what manner it will best become them to behave towards their wives, whenever they go abroad together, or mix in any public assemblies.

A woman, when made a wife, cannot presently forget the homage paid to her by the man who is now her husband; —
she

she thinks it hard to descend at once from the goddess to the mere mortal ; and if she has too much sense to expect the same adoration as before, she has at least a just title to respect and complaisance ; and where these are denied her, it must be allow'd by all unprejudiced persons, that she has great reason to complain.

Indeed it is in my power to mention a husband, of some distinction too, who on his first going abroad with his new-married lady, either stood staring up to the firmament, or on any objects who happen'd to pass by, and neglected to give his hand to help her into the coach. — I have also happen'd, more than once, to visit at the same places and times they did, and have observ'd, that whenever she open'd her mouth to speak he began to talk as loud and as fast as he could, as if he thought nothing she was capable of uttering was worthy the attention of the company ; tho' I do no more than justice to that lady when I apply to her these words of the poet :

- Whene'er she speaks, 'tis with so
- good a grace,
- That nothing but her wit can charm
- beyond it.

A woman of pride and spirit can ill endure a slight from the man on whom she has bestow'd herself, but least of all when it is given in public; especially if in the presence of any of the young gigglers of her acquaintance, who will no sooner get out of her sight than they will be apt to say to one another, — ' Lord what a change is here! — Did you mind how the man treats her now she is his wife! — Well, — he certainly has not found all the charms in her he expected! — I thought, indeed, what all the mighty passion he pretended to would end in at last; I suppose now her vanity is sufficiently mortified. — If he uses her so abroad, what will he do at home!

These little spiteful reflections may possibly, by some officious person, be convey'd to her ears; — and then 'tis well, if instead of loving, she does not hate the man who has given occasion for them to be made.

The greatest familiarity ought not to destroy good manners, nor will it have any such effect, except amongst the very lowest sort of people, or those who, tho' of a high rank, affect to despise all decency in every thing, and take it into their heads

heads to imagine that a careless, rough, and even bully-like behaviour, looks manly in them; — some such vulgar great ones I am told there are, — but I hope not many.

But besides the ingenerosity and ingratitude of the thing, there seems to me to be something strangely impolitic in this; — when a man is seen to treat that woman with disregard after marriage, whom before he never approach'd or spoke of but with the highest respect and veneration, it looks, methinks, as if her value was lessen'd by being made his wife; and consequently such a conduct in a husband must very much diminish, instead of magnifying, his own character.

A truly wise man will always be sensible, that honouring his wife is doing honour to himself; and that every affront offer'd to her is, in effect, an equal indignity to him: — this, therefore, is a motive which, if instigated by no other, will most certainly make him forbear giving, by his own example, encouragement to any one else to behave towards her with ill manners.

But as I cannot be perswaded to believe, that the indifference which some men shew

shew to their wives in public proceeds from any real dislike or contempt of their persons, as the ladies are apt to suspect, but merely from carelessness, and that which is, indeed, the source of most errors want of thought, I would fain have every husband give a little attention to this point, on which depends more than, without a serious reflection on it, he may be able to conceive.

I would not have any one suppose, from what I have said, that I am endeavouring to recommend to any husband the obsequiousness of lord Supple, who, whenever his wife goes out in a chair, walks by the side of it with his hand in her's during the whole time, — diligently watches her every motion, and on her offering to stir from one part of the room to another, starts from his seat and flies to assist her cross the floor; — in the midst of company talks chiefly to her, — will toast no other health, — and if by chance he advances any position in conversation, never fails to close his discourse without turning to her, and crying, with a low bow, — ‘ Do you not think as I do, madam? — Am I not in the right?’ — To which she replies with a gracious nod, — ‘ Oh yes, my lord, — your lordship can never be in
D the

'the wrong.' — This is a behaviour which renders both of them equally ridiculous wherever they come; and if her ladyship had a little less share of vanity, and a greater of understanding, she would be quite asham'd of and condemn him for.

In fine, no reader of common sense need be told, that extremes are to be avoided in this, as in all other cases; — a husband ought, doubtless, to treat his wife with a decent respect, blended with an air of tenderness, which may shew the world he is perfectly satisfied with his choice; — more than this no prudent woman will either desire or expect,



SECT.



S E C T. VII.

Some measures to be taken by a Husband in a private life, which will seldom fail of very much endearing him to the affection of his Wife, and consequently promote their mutual happiness.

THOUGH to find herself treated with respect by her husband in public may gratify the pride of a wife, yet if his behaviour in private towards her does not in some measure correspond, it will never be sufficient either to convince her of his affection, or to establish a lasting one in her.

I shall therefore give a few hints, which I am pretty certain every husband, who wishes to live well with the woman he has married, will not only think fit to make use of, but also find his account in it, so far as to oblige him to thank me for it sincerely.

A good husband will doubtless be extremely pleas'd when he has his wife

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abroad

abroad with him, when he shares in her visits, makes one in her parties of pleasure, and partakes of her diversions; yet will his satisfaction be still greater if, when he has her to himself at home, and he is at full liberty to commune with her as with his own heart, — to talk freely to her on their own affairs, and on those of the world, — to join together in praising the virtues of some of their acquaintance, and in pitying the frailties of others; — to enjoy this felicity, he will live in his own house as much as his station and circumstances will permit him to do.

Such a husband, whenever he finds himself detain'd abroad by business, or any other accident, longer than usual, or than his wife expected, will never return empty-handed; — he will bring with him some fine fruit, a paper of sweetmeats, or some curious new-fashion'd toy, as an ornament for her hair or breast, in order to shew that though absent in person she is always present to his mind,

If he rides, or walks out to take the air, he will make choice of the morning, not only because it is the most proper time for those exercises, but also because she is then most busied in her domestic
affairs,

SECT. 7. *The* HUSBAND. 53

affairs, and will the least want his company.

When he finds her about to fet herself down to any needlework in an afternoon, he will presently run to his study and fetch some book to read to her; and when both begin to grow weary of their several avocations, perswade her, by way of relaxation, to go with him to some one or other of those numerous entertainments with which this town abounds; — what they happen to see there will furnish them, on their coming home, with fresh matter for conversation till the time of their going to bed, where possess'd only with soft and compos'd thoughts, sleep will present them with ideas no less agreeable than their waking moments. — Who would not envy such a life? — What man so stupid as not to do every thing in his power to obtain it?

I am not ignorant that there are many men who will tell me, — I argue upon a mere supposition that the happiness of marriage depended entirely on the husband; — they will say that there are women of such inflexible and obdurate tempers as not to be melted into good-nature by all the proofs of tenderness I can invent; — women who are too proud to

be oblig'd, think every thing that can be done for them is no more than their due; and that they have a right to expect greater condescensions than are consistent with prudence or the dignity of a husband's character to make.

To these objections I reply, — that I do not pretend to say the happiness of a married state depends entirely on the conduct of the husband, but on a coalition of mind, a perfect concurrence and parity of sentiment in both parties : — this is a thing which, I am sorry to observe, very rarely happens ; — but then I must take the liberty of adding, that I am pretty confident we should much more often see it, and that for one couple we find live in harmony together, we might congratulate a thousand, if husbands would take proper measures for that purpose.

I am also ready to confess, that there are some women of such obstinate and untoward dispositions as to take pleasure in seeming to be pleas'd with nothing ; — yet even these may be led, though not driven, — a little soothing, a little humouring of the foibles on the husband's part, may, by degrees, render them somewhat more tractable, and perhaps, in time, convert all their fowerness into
sweet-

SECT. 7. *The* HUSBAND. 55

sweetness ; — the confectioners will tell you, that the more acidity the fruit has in it the greater quantity of sugar is requir'd ; — certainly therefore, where the meal is to last for life, a man ought to use his utmost endeavours to make it as palatable as he can.

Women, however, speaking in the general, for there is no rule without some exceptions, are by nature soft, gentle, and apt to receive almost any impression given them by the man they love ; — sure then it is the business of every husband, as soon as he becomes so, to improve, by a tender and endearing behaviour, the affection his wife had before marriage ; — this is the most effectual, and indeed the only means which can give him any reasonable expectation that she will endeavour to be in reality what she finds he wishes she should be.

I believe no one will deny but that this experiment is well worth the pains it will cost, as in making it a husband does no more than what he is bound to do, both by divine and human laws, and is an effort which, if crown'd with success, will render his whole life happy ; in case of failing, afford him the consolation

of knowing he is not unhappy thro' his own neglect.

If any husband, on reading these admonitions, should accuse his wife of pride, vanity, affectation, peevishness, extravagance, or any other folly or vice she may be guilty of, and say, — that it is impossible to behave towards such a woman with any degree of tenderness, or even with common complaisance, I would ask him, — Where is that superiority of wisdom which man so loudly boasts of, if it cannot enable him to look on the frailties of the weaker vessel rather with pity than contempt or indignation, and likewise make him take a pleasure in attempting to reform what is amiss?

To conclude, — though it must be acknowledg'd that there are some women whose humours are not very easy to be endured, and less easy to be reclaim'd, yet it is my firm opinion that the number of bad wives would be much fewer than they are, if there were more good husbands.





S E C T. VIII.

The folly of a Husband in using too much freedom in his Wife's presence with any of her female acquaintance.

AS I would have nothing wanting in this work that may any way contribute to restore marriage to its former dignity, and render the persons united in that state as truly happy as Heaven first intended, I must not omit the mention of one circumstance in the behaviour of a husband, which, how trivial soever it may seem, and indeed is in itself, has, to my certain knowledge, been the occasion of much secret discontent, and sometimes of an open rupture; — it is this :

Nothing is more common than for men to indulge themselves in an idle foolish custom of playing and toying with every woman they come in company with, and this in mere bagatelle, and without any inclination to her person, or view to a farther intimacy; — yet these freedoms, how innocent soever they may be, are seldom pleasing to a wife; and if

often repeated to the same woman, may, perhaps, in time, fill her with very unquiet and jealous apprehensions.

Either her love or her pride may possibly alarm her;— both these are very tenacious passions whenever they get dominion of the mind; — the former of them may render her envious of every kiss, every touch, bestow'd on another by the man she wishes wholly to engross; — the latter will make her look on such a behaviour as an indignity to herself, and possibly resent it accordingly.

Some women, indeed, affect to be above regarding these things, and to shew she is so, will join in what they call a game of romps; but then it frequently costs her many bitten lips and an aching heart.

Various instances of this kind have come to my knowledge; but there was one which above all dwells upon my mind, not only as I was an eye-witness of, but also because I had the good fortune to be instrumental in preventing a very bad effect just ready to be brought to pass.

On

On a trip I was once taking to France, an accident happen'd to detain me for some days at Dover, where remembring that an old acquaintance, an officer of the customs, was settled with his family in that town, I would not lose the opportunity I then had of seeing them; — I easily inform'd myself where they lodg'd, and accordingly went to make them a visit. — On my asking if Mr. or Mrs. ***** were at home, the maid who open'd the door told me they were both at home; but added, she did not know whether they would see company or not. — This a little surpriz'd me, as I did not think them of a station to make use of such formalities; — I took no notice, however, but bid her let them know my name, and that I was below.

She did as I desir'd, and presently return'd to shew me into the dining-room; where, on my entrance, I beheld a scene truly pity-moving: — Mr. ***** stood in a fix'd posture, — his arms folded, and a countenance in which it was hard to say whether rage or grief was most predominant: — his wife sat in one corner of the room, exactly like the picture of Niobe before turn'd into a stone, — her eyes half drown'd in tears, — distraction

in her face, and every token of despair about her; — her three little daughters, the eldest of whom was not above nine years old, all of them in travelling habits clinging upon her knees and crying bitterly. — She rose to meet me, and would have spoke if sobs had not choak'd the passage of her words. — He, having somewhat more presence of mind, welcom'd me to Dover; but subjoin'd with a deep sigh, — ‘ You find us in a very
 ‘ unfit condition to receive you.’ — To which I reply'd, — ‘ I am sorry to see
 ‘ you in this confusion; — I hope you
 ‘ have not lost your employment, but
 ‘ rather are to be remov'd to some other
 ‘ part; for I perceive Mrs. ***** and
 ‘ the children are already equipp'd for a
 ‘ journey.’

He was opening his mouth to make some answer, but Mrs. ***** had now recover'd the use of her voice, and immediately taking up the words cry'd out,
 ‘ — No, he may stay at Dover, and
 ‘ pursue his shameful pleasures, 'till
 ‘ Heaven shall send some heavy vengeance on him; but it is I, unhappy
 ‘ I, and my poor helpless babes, who
 ‘ must remove for ever from the sight of
 ‘ a base ungrateful man, who no longer
 ‘ has any regard either for them or me.’

The

The amazement I appear'd in, and which, indeed, I neither could nor endeavour'd to conceal, on hearing her speak in this manner, very much disconcerted Mr. *****; he reproach'd her for being the occasion, in very bitter terms, which she did not fail to return in others equally severe; — the poor innocent children were still weeping and wringing their little hands; my heart bled for them: — I neglected nothing in my power to moderate the passion of the incens'd wife and husband, and desiring to be let into the secrets of their discontent; the remembrance of some former services I had render'd them, convincing both how much I was their friend, they at last made me acquainted with the whole of the affair; — farcical enough, indeed, in its beginning, though so likely to have proved tragical in its consequences.

Mr. ***** was extremely intimate with a brother officer who lived in the same town, and very near him; — this person had a daughter call'd Miss Molly, of about eighteen or nineteen years of age; — she was a brisk lively girl, rather too free in conversation, but perfectly innocent, at least as far as I could learn from her character when afterwards

wards I had the curiosity to enquire into it: — Mrs. ***** at first was much pleas'd with her, as she us'd to come and sit with her whenever Mr. ***** was on duty, and diverted her with relating all the little occurrences she could hear of in the neighbourhood; — but the good-will she had for her was but of short continuance, as will presently appear.

Ten years of marriage had taken from Mr. ***** nothing of his juvenile vivacity, of which it is impossible for any man to have more; — he was for ever singing, laughing, dancing, jumping, or playing some gambol with whoever was in company; — Miss Molly being exactly of the same humour, neither of them could sit still a moment when they were together. — As Mrs. ***** was of a more sedate disposition, and could not make a party in their little tricks, this behaviour soon grew very disagreeable to her; — she thought herself neglected by both, and that they were too much taken up with one another, till, step by step, that poisonous passion, jealousy, got possession of her mind, and she imagin'd there were somewhat between them which ought not to have been.

She conceal'd her suspicions, however, from her husband, resolving not to accuse

SECT. 8. *The* HUSBAND. 63

cuse till she had it in her power to convict ; — to that end she employ'd spies to watch him and Miss Molly whenever they were both out of her sight ; — these emissaries frequently brought intelligence where they were, but never that they were together : — this, however, did not satisfy her ; for a mind once inflam'd with the fever of jealousy, will still thirst after either what is not in reality, or if it is, is impossible to be obtain'd.

She had, by her own confession, continued these fruitless enquires for upwards of two months, without being able to find any thing which she could interpret into a proof of what she still could not forbear believing, till one night, when they were in bed, her husband being in a profound sleep, suddenly catch'd her in his arms, and cried, — ‘ My dear, dear Molly ! — little did I once hope this happiness.’ — The force with which he utter'd these words, it is likely, dissolv'd the pleasing idea which had so much transported his imagination, for it seems he turn'd away and spoke no more, but did not awake.

This was, to Mrs. *****, as full a confirmation of her husband's guilt, as if she had in reality beheld him, with her
sup-

suppos'd rival in the act of shame ; — but tho' she had long wanted that assurance she now thought herself possess'd of, yet did the imaginary certainty involve her in much greater agonies than any had been inflicted on her by suspense.

She got out of bed that instant, — threw open the window, — put on her cloaths by moon-light, and all the time she was doing this stamp'd and rav'd to herself rather like an inhabitant of Bedlam than a reasonable creature. — The noise she made fully awak'd Mr. ***** ; but it was some minutes before he could persuade himself that he was so ; — he heard words from his wife which he could never have thought her capable of uttering ; and as he had not the least notion what could have put her into this fury, as half afraid she was indeed seiz'd with some sudden frenzy, — he call'd to her to know what was the matter, and if she was not well ; — to which questions she answer'd only with revilings ; but tho' her expressions were all wild and incorrect, yet the name of Miss Molly often repeated, and the transport he had testified in his dream, gave him at last to understand the truth.

‘ Thou

‘ Thou foolish woman, said he to
 ‘ her, between jest and anger, is all this
 ‘ rage occasion’d by a dream, and no
 ‘ very wonderful one neither? — Do you
 ‘ not know that I have a sister Molly in
 ‘ Jamaica, who is very dear to me? —
 ‘ And can it seem strange to you, that
 ‘ imagining as I did in my sleep, that she
 ‘ was come over to England, should ex-
 ‘ tremely rejoice me?’

‘ You are a lyar and villain, cried she,
 ‘ it was not your sister, but your strum-
 ‘ pet you were so fond on in your sleep.
 ‘ — In speaking these words she snatch’d
 a basin of water, which she had wash’d
 her hands in the night before, and threw
 it in his face, and all over him, as he lay
 in bed. — He own’d to me, that at this
 action he was no longer master of him-
 self; — he seiz’d her by the shoulders,
 and scarce knowing what he did, gave her
 two or three blows; — she scream’d out
 out murder; — but it not being yet
 break of day, all the family were buried
 in sleep, and neither heard nor came to
 her assistance.

Mr. *****, a little recover’d from the
 first heat of his passion, forced her in-
 to a chair, and began to reason with her
 on

on the folly and injustice she was guilty of; but, convinced in her own mind that all he said was false, and more enrag'd than before by the blows she had receiv'd, would listen to no arguments he urg'd, and continued railing and loading him with the most opprobrious names her fury could invent, till, breathless, with the force of enervate rage, she fell into a sort of fit: — he had nothing near him to apply, so ran and rous'd the maid to come to her assistance, but return'd not into the chamber himself; and as he was to go upon duty very early in the morning, as soon as he had got himself dress'd went to walk on the pier, in order to compose his mind after the strange ruffle it had sustain'd.

On coming to herself, and missing her husband, she look'd on his having left her in that condition as a fresh insult, and immediately took a resolution to quit him for ever and go to London with her children, chusing rather to submit to the most servile and hard labour for their support, than to continue with a man whom she now set down in her thoughts as the most false and most inhuman of the sex.

Fully

Fully determin'd not to sleep another night in Dover, she pack'd up her things and got herself and children ready for the journey, after having agreed with a man who kept a little waggon to carry them as far as Canterbury, where she intended to take the cheapest conveyance she could procure for London. — Mr. ***** came home in the midst of these preparations, and was amaz'd and shock'd beyond expression; — he represented to her the wildness of her design, and the ruin it must bring on the whole family if put into execution; but she was deaf to all persuasions, and mutual altercations were beginning to be renew'd between them when I enter'd.

As this story was related partly by the one and partly by the other, it was frequently interrupted by reproaches on each side alternately, which gave me an opportunity of expostulating with both on their several mistakes. — I easily made Mr. ***** see how unbecoming it was in a married man to toy too much with young women, or use any familiarities with them, which, tho' free from any criminal intention on either side, might afford occasion for censure; and I also, at last, convinced Mrs. *****, that nothing could

could be more natural than for her husband to dream of a sister whom he so much lov'd, and had not seen for a long time; and that as she had no other proof of his falshood than merely that dream, her suspicions had greatly wrong'd both him and Miss Molly.

In fine, my arguments were so successful as to bring about an entire reconciliation; — they flew into each other's arms, — confess'd they had been both to blame, and melted into tears of joy and tenderness; and this evening, which had like to have prov'd so fatal to the peace of the whole family, concluded with all the demonstrations of mutual affection that could be given.

Few animosities between married people, when arriv'd at the pitch this was, ever ended so happily. — I would therefore fain perswade every man who is a husband, of what degree soever, to avoid giving his wife any cause of complaint in a thing which it is so very easy for him to restrain himself from being guilty of.



S E C T. IX.

The manner in which it will be most proper for a married Man to carry himself towards the Maid-Servants of his family.

I Hope no man who is a husband, will think that in this section, or some others, I descend to particulars too minute to merit his attention ; — experience shews us that many things, which in their beginning appear of little or no importance, are sometimes productive of the greatest mischiefs ; — the smallest grain of sand thrown into the eye has often prov'd of dangerous consequence, and a spark falling from the snuff of a lighted candle been the occasion of very terrible conflagrations.

A very eminent author and philosopher of the last age, compares conjugal love to a web of so delicate a texture, that the least brush upon it may occasion a rupture, which, says he, if once made, is scarce ever so well mended as to recover its first beauty.

I have already, in a former section, warn'd a husband against the folly of interfering in domestic affairs, and pretending to give directions to maid-servants; but there is another weakness he may be guilty of in relation to them, which will not only lessen his own dignity as master, but may also be the cause of a good deal of discontent to his wife.

What I mean is being too familiar, entering into little conversations with them, and questioning them on things in which they have no manner of concern; or if they have, ought more properly to be left to the examination of their mistress.

I know several men who are extremely fond of playing the wag, as they call it, with their maid-servants, — rallying them about their sweet-hearts, — and talking merrily to them on the score of love and marriage. — I love mightily, will such a one cry, to see the girls blush and look silly; — they mean no harm in this, but I believe, nay am pretty well assur'd, that too much of this sort of conversation, especially from a master, has made many a once shy and bashful maid, at last become not only incapable of blushing at
all,

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all, but even bold enough to return all his jokes with interest.

It is certain that nothing is more evident than that a man, by this idle and unthinking way of behaviour, loses himself all the respect and authority which a master of a family ought always to maintain over his domestics; but this is not the worst consequence likely to ensue; — a maid stands in need of a much greater share of prudence than can be expected from her education, who being thus entertain'd by her master does not become pert, assuming, and neglectful of all the duties of her place.

When this happens to be the case, as by the way it very seldom proves otherwise, it naturally follows that the mistress will reprimand the remissness of her servant; — the servant, instead of making any excuse for her fault, will return an impertinent or sawcy answer; and as the one grows more justly austere, the other will, in proportion, grow more arrogant and careless; — thus begins a discord which soon extends itself much farther.

A girl whose mind is made vain, and perverted in the manner I have been speaking of, will not confine her career
to

to the bounds of home, — she will whisper it among all the servants in the neighbourhood, and in every shop she goes into, that her mistress is a proud, ill-natur'd, vapourish woman; — that she is pleased with nothing, and does not know when she is well served; and adds, that there would be no living in the family if her master were not the best humour'd man in the world; — the silly creature either forgetting, or not regarding that what she says on this last account, may give room for conjectures little to the advantage of herself or master.

If a wife has any sparks of jealousy in her composition, they will probably kindle into a blaze, and then who can answer for the mischiefs that may befall? — But if her discretion, a good opinion of herself, or a perfect confidence in her husband's affection, defend her from the effects of that outrageous, that distracting passion, yet it must be acknowledg'd, that to find the business of her house neglected, her commands slighted, her person irreverently treated, her character traduced, by the person who eats her bread, and receives wages for making her as easy as possible in all these circumstances, is sufficient to diminish, if not quite erase her tender-

SECT. 9. *The* HUSBAND. 73

tenderneſs for the man whoſe folly has been the occaſion of her ill uſage.

I am almoſt poſitive that no man who is a huſband, and endued with even a tolerable ſhare of underſtanding, will indulge ſo ridiculous a propenſity, if he once gives himſelf time to conſider ſeriously on the many diſorders it muſt infallibly occaſion in his family: — but as there are ſome people who are utter enemies to all reflection, of what kind ſoever, it is for their ſakes I write theſe admonitions, to the end that without any pains to themſelves, they may ſee at one view the dangers to which they are liable to be expoſ'd.

I hope no one will ſo far miſtake my meaning, as to imagine I am aiming to recommend harſhneſs and aſterity in the head of a family towards his ſervants; — no, — on the contrary, I would have him behave with the utmoſt gentleneſs and humanity to them, both in his words and actions; — I would have him be a kind maſter, a beneficent patron, and a firm protector, in caſe of any injury or inſult attempted to be offer'd to them; — I would only have him not deſcend to be their companion, but always to take care to obſerve a decent reſerve, and a
E becoming

becoming distance with them, as it is by that alone he can expect to secure them in their obedience, or himself in his authority over them.

That too much familiarity with inferiors is apt to beget contempt, is a vulgar adage in the mouth of every one; and I am very certain that in private life there is no one circumstance in which it is more necessary to be remember'd than in this I am now speaking of; — I should therefore be glad that every man, addicted to the humour of being over free with the servants, especially his maids, would have engrav'd on the head of his cane or the lid of his snuff-box, something like these words:

‘ Remember that you are a master,
 ‘ and do nothing which may forfeit the
 ‘ respect owing to the station Heaven
 ‘ has placed you in.’

As Philip king of Macedon, fearing to be too much puff'd up with earthly grandeur, made his chamberlain awake him every morning with these words:

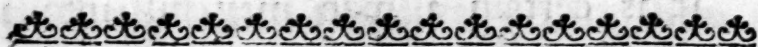
‘ Remember, Philip, that thou art but
 ‘ a man.’

It is certain a man may fall into as great errors by debasing as by elating himself too much; — the various passions and propensities of human nature are, for the most part, so inconsistent with right reason, and withal so strong, that every one stands in need of being, some way or other, reminded what he is, or he will be in great danger of not acting conformable to the character he ought to maintain.

A gentleman of great fortune and distinction, who died not many years past, fearing that his son might be contaminated with the vices he then found were beginning to spread through the nation, caus'd a fine jewel, which had long been in the family, to have engrav'd on the circle of it these words :

‘ Never forget that you are descended
 ‘ from the ancient and loyal family of
 ‘ the *****, and never be tempted to
 ‘ deviate from the principles of your an-
 ‘ cestors.’

Here my imagination roves; — but I must call home my wandering ideas, and recollect that I ought to confine them to the subject I am upon, of which I think I have already said sufficient.



S E C T. X.

The treatment which is expected, and ought to be given to a sick Wife, by every man who either is, or desires to be look'd upon as a good Husband.

EVERY husband is sensible that he is bound, by the promise he made before the altar, to love, to cherish, and to support his wife in sickness as well as in health; — but I am extremely sorry to observe that there are some men, I am afraid too many, who perform this duty in so sullen and ungracious a manner, that it seems rather the effect of mere compulsion than a free good-will.

It is too known a truth for any one to deny, that the affections of the mind have so great an influence over the body, that where the former is discompos'd the latter cannot be quite easy: — but this is more especially felt in sickness; because the animal powers being then weaken'd, we are less able to resist the attacks of any vexatious accident: — in vain the physician prescribes, — the apothecary prepares, — the careful nurse administers, —
little

SECT. 10. *The* HUSBAND. 77

little good can be hoped for from the medicine, if the heart of the patient be oppress'd with any anxious care, or possess'd with any melancholy ideas; and this I may venture to attest, not only as my own opinion, but as I have heard it declar'd by several of the most learned of the faculty.

I am certain that the tender assiduities, — the soft commiseration of those we love, not only greatly alleviates the pain, but also contributes to the cure of the disease; — whereas, on the contrary, a rugged, churlish, or even a negligent behaviour towards us, in the person who we might rather expect should participate in our sufferings, sinks us still lower in the bed of sickness, assists the hand of fate, and doubles every pang inflicted on us.

If ever a husband would be kind, — if ever he would endear himself, — if ever he would prove the affection he so solemnly has vow'd, — this, therefore, is the time; — there is no circumstance in life which so much demands his care and his attention; — none in which his assiduities can be of greater benefit, and none in which his neglect of them can be more justly resented.

It is not enough that a man grudges nothing which he thinks necessary for the recovery of his wife's health ; — he may send for physician after physician, — have consultation upon consultation, — employ persons to wait night and day at her bedside, and watch her every breath, — yet if he leaves the care of all this entirely to others, they will lose great part of the effect he may desire ; — nor will all he does be sufficient to entitle him to the character of a perfect good husband, — unless he stays much at home, refrains from all his accustom'd diversions, — goes frequently into her chamber, — makes his own eyes the witnesses that nothing about her be neglected, and as often as she is in a condition to be spoke to, pours into her ears the balm of fond condolence and compassion : — this is what a woman of any delicacy will doubtless expect, and is no more, in fact, than what a husband who loves his wife with tenderness and sincerity will not fail to observe.

Here it may be objected, that a person who has a public employment or trade, or any other avocation on which the subsistence of himself and family depends, has not leisure to behave in the manner
I pro-

SECT. 10. *The* HUSBAND. 79

I propose ; — but to this I may answer in the words of a well-known author :

‘ Wherever there is a will, there is a way.’

So even these may steal so much time from their meals or from their repose, as to testify that kind concern it is their duty to express as well as to feel.

But what can be alledg’d in vindication of a man of fortune, who being independent, and wholly master of himself and time, shall amuse himself with the entertainments of the theatre and ball, and laugh away his hours in gay delights, while the woman he is bound to love lies languishing in a fever, or some other equally dangerous distemper? — Surely it cannot be wonder’d at, if on her recovery the remembrance of such a behaviour does not turn all the affection she ever had for him into indifference, if no worse.

A friend of mine, who is a woman of some wit, being in one of the boxes at the play-house, happen’d to meet there with a gentleman of her acquaintance, whose wife she knew lay at the point of death ; — after the first salutation, she accosted him with saying, ‘ I hope, sir,

‘ your lady is much better?’ — ‘ No,
 ‘ madam, answer’d he, I am told much
 ‘ worse, and that she cannot outlive this
 ‘ night.’ — ‘ Oh, Heaven! resum’d the
 ‘ lady, I am surpris’d! — I did not
 ‘ doubt but that she was entirely out of
 ‘ danger, by seeing you abroad, — espe-
 ‘ cially in such a place as this!’ — These
 words, it seems, a little confounded; but
 more vex’d him, and after a short pause,
 ‘ I can find nothing, madam, in my be-
 ‘ ing here to countenance your surprise,
 ‘ return’d he; I did not marry to stay
 ‘ always at home and make cordials and
 ‘ posset-drinks for a sick wife.’

The lady, as she afterwards inform’d
 me, was preparing to make an answer to
 these words, which, perhaps, would have
 been more stinging to him than what she
 had said before; but he took care to
 avoid the hearing it, by leaving that box
 directly and going into another on the
 other side of the house, where she could
 only reproach him with her eyes.

For my own part, I should imagine it
 utterly impossible, if fresh instances did
 not daily convince me of the truth of it,
 that any man of common reason, and
 happy in a polite education, could be
 capable of behaving in a manner not only
 unkind

SECT. 10. *The* HUSBAND. 81

unkind to his wife, but also indecent in the face of the world.

I have heard some people charitable enough to impute this fault as merely owing to a certain indolence of nature. — It may be so, indeed; — but then that very indolence must doubtless proceed from the want of tenderness; and I think I may easily venture to pronounce, that the husband who does not feel, in some measure, the pains of his sick wife, will never be able to taste any refin'd pleasures with her when in health.

But as unworthy as a husband of this class renders himself of the affection of a woman of a delicate way of thinking, there are others yet still worse; those I have already mention'd content themselves with the bare performance of their duty; but those I am about to speak of, grumble to discharge that duty which even the laws of the land would exact from them: — every thing requir'd by a sick wife, beyond the common necessities of life, makes them knit their brows, and cry it is more than they can afford. — It is true, indeed, that the high fees of physicians in this country, more than any other in the world; the exorbitant bills of apothecaries, the lavishness and

impertinence of some nurses, give a kind of pretence to men of moderate fortunes for their ill humour on this score.

But if these men would consider, that the misfortune has not happen'd through any fault of the poor suffering wife, but inflicted on them by the hand of Heaven, they would certainly submit to it with greater patience, and retrench, as much as possible, all other expences, in order to make this more easy.

There are a third sort of husbands, who on the first symptoms of an indisposition in their wives appear tender even to an excess, — spare nothing that they can hear or think of for their relief, — can scarce be prevail'd upon by the calls of business, or the persuasions of friends, to leave the sick charmer for a moment; — yet if the distemper proves of any long continuance, grow weary of those assiduities, — begin to lessen his cares, — by degrees deny her many things which her malady requires, — at last heartily wishes her dead, and wants but little of letting her know he does so. — I know not whether this inequality of behaviour is not more grievous to a woman than either of the former I have mention'd.

I have

I have heard it said that there are some husbands so savage in their nature, but I hope the number of such is not many, who to avoid allowing the means proper for the recovery of a wife that labours under any disease, affect not to believe her indisposition real, — cry, — that she complains only to be the more indulg'd, — and, instead of pitying, reproach her every groan.

It is certain indeed that a wife, by the assistance of religion, and the consideration of what is owing to her own character in the world, may be enabled to continue the practice of her duty after such usage; but it is neither in nature nor in reason to expect she can retain any degree of affection for the man from whom she receives it.

I much doubt however, that upon a strict examination it would be found, that on a provocation of this kind, there are more women who sacrifice every thing to their resentment, than those who sacrifice their resentment to their duty.

For as the ingenious Mrs. Behn, who knew her sex perfectly well, makes the

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heroine of one of her plays say on a like occasion,

- ‘ ’Tis love and gratitude alone can
- ‘ bind
- ‘ The wand’ring heart, or fix a gene-
- ‘ rous mind.
- ‘ Honour and faith are but mere
- ‘ empty names,
- ‘ When pride and vengeance our at-
- ‘ tention claims.’

In fine, that husband who does not treat his wife in sickness with the same unwearied care and tenderness which he would wish to be treated with himself, if in the like condition, can never be said to regard her as his own flesh, or to pay any respect to the sacred institution that made her so.



SECT.



S E C T. XI.

Parties of Pleasure, how far a Wife ought to be indulged in them, and the danger of a Husband's making long and frequent excursions from home.

WHAT I take to be meant by parties of pleasure is, when half a dozen, or a more or less number of intimate acquaintance, agree to go abroad together and divert themselves as well as they can at some place or other they happen to pitch upon; — they set out with a resolution to pass their hours in innocent merriment, and to be pleas'd with every thing they meet with, though it should prove much less elegant than what they left behind them at home.

Women are naturally extremely fond of these little relaxations, especially when young and gay, are new to the cares of life, have no children, nor any extraordinary avocation to take up their minds and give them a more serious turn; — there are very few things, therefore, in which a husband can more oblige his wife, than in humouring her in this point.

Besides,

Besides, he will also find it his best policy to do so; because, by promoting frequent parties of pleasure with persons he approves of, and always making one in them himself, he will prevent her from forming any without him, and, as it may chance, with company less consistent with her reputation to be seen with.

I cannot help contemning, though at the same time I pity the folly of a man, who either through a cloudy fullness of disposition, or niggardly grudging what he may think an unnecessary expence, always evades whatever proposals are made to him of this kind by his friends, as it is the odds of an hundred against one, that he only denies himself his share in that satisfaction which his wife will not be depriv'd of enjoying, either clandestinely or in an open defiance of his will.

The surest way to keep a woman of any spirit or vivacity from running into extravagant or unwarrantable amusements, is to indulge her in those which are both moderate and innocent, than which, in my opinion, none can be call'd more truly so than these parties of pleasure, when compos'd of worthy persons, who join with

SECT. II. *The* HUSBAND. 87

no other design than to exhilarate the minds of each other.

In a word, — as they are no more than one of the regales of life, and none more unhurtful, or less liable to be attended with any bad consequences, I am surpriz'd that any man of common sense should run the risque of a brulée with the partner of his bosom on that account.

But there are some husbands of a yet more unreasonable way of thinking, — men who will allow their wives to take no sort of diversion, yet indulge themselves in all, and pursue with the utmost eagerness every thing that has the face of pleasure, as if it were for them alone that nature has bestow'd and art improv'd all the delights and enjoyments of the creation ; and woman, as an inferior part, must place her whole felicity, as well as make it her perpetual study, to contribute to the satisfaction of her lordly master.

Severe, indeed, it must be confess'd, is the fate of that woman who is yolk'd to such a tyrant ; and I hope I shall not be thought to go too far when I say, that almost any course she takes, either to be reveng'd on him or to console herself, the crime, if it should happen to prove what
can

can be justly call'd so, will be half absolv'd by the provocation; and pity will accompany the blame that falls upon her.

The least a man can do, is doubtless to take very sparingly those pleasures or amusements which he refuses to his wife, provided they are such as besit her sex; for there are some peculiar to the men, and which no prudent woman will desire to share.

I would, however, perswade every man to refrain from all long and frequent excursions from home on any pretence whatsoever; — because the calls of business must always be complied with; and I can scarce believe that any woman will be so weak as to resent or be uneasy at her husband's absence when she knows it is for their common good.

But when a man greedily lays hold of every opportunity of being abroad, — rambles down to Epsom, — thence to Tunbridge, — then to Bath, — and so on to as many places as are frequented by the gay world, taking his round of pleasure, while his wife is left at home, perhaps employ'd in making shirts, or some other piece of work, against his return; — this, I must say, has something in it
so

SECT. II. *The* HUSBAND. 89

so very careless, so unkind, so disrespectful, that no woman of spirit can content herself with enduring.

To conclude, — A man who is desirous of acquiring the reputation of a good husband, — would have his family well govern'd, and his wife always faithful, chearful, and obliging, must never go about to deprive her entirely of those recreations to which she may have been accusom'd; but as the most innocent may be inconvenient, if too often repeated, to the end she may take them the more seldom, he should endeavour to make home as pleasing to her as possible, which can only be done by staying much in it himself, and behaving while there in somewhat like the manner describ'd in the seventh section in this book..



SECT.



S E C T. XII.

The behaviour of a good Husband to his Wife in absence, when enforced by necessity.

THERE are many accidents in life which may oblige the most fond and tender husband to be absent from his wife for a much longer time than either of them could wish; — but then his reluctance at parting, — the transports he expresses on returning to her arms, will keep her from feeling any uneasy emotions on account of his affection during their separation, and give a double relish to the joys his presence brings on their re-union.

But all this may be feign'd, will some people say: — 'tis true it may, and I believe very often is so; — but, supposing that to be the case, if the fallacy carries with it so near a resemblance to truth as not be distinguish'd from it, a wife thus happily deceiv'd is no less contented than the reality would make her.

Besides, the constraint a man must necessarily put upon himself in counterfeiting
passions

SECT. 12. *The* HUSBAND. 91

passions he is insensible of, is, at least, a proof that he has some consideration of the person for whose sake he does it; and that the continuance of her affection is of consequence to him, tho' it is not in his power perhaps to return it in an adequate proportion: — this very dissimulation therefore in him, if by any accident she discovers it to be such, will, if I know any thing of womankind, be partly justified by the motive; and as it gratifies her pride, tho' not her love, will more easily be forgiven than a haughty disregard or a total indifference.

So that upon the whole, whether a man has a more or less degree of affection for his wife, it certainly is no fault in him to display it to the best advantage he can, to the end that if compell'd to be separated from her for any length of time, he may leave her possess'd of such tender ideas of him, as will effectually keep her from doing any thing in his absence which he may have cause to complain of on his return.

It behoves him, however, to confirm her belief of his affection, which is the most sure means of confirming her in the constant practice of her duty, to let few posts escape without writing to her, and to
renew

renew in his letters all those protestations of an inviolable fidelity which he made to her on taking leave.

But I believe I need only appeal to the experience of my readers in this point; — I dare say, that there are very few of them who are not convinced of the great efficacy of a tender well wrote letter. — The ingenious Mr. Philip Massenger, in one of his poems, has a sentiment which I cannot help thinking extremely just as well applicable to this subject. — These are the words in which he expresses himself :

- ‘ Letters from those we love make
- ‘ deeper stamp
- ‘ Upon the mind, than if engrav’d on
- ‘ plates
- ‘ Of brass, or adamant; — the inde-
- ‘ libile marks
- ‘ No time erases, nor no rust con-
- ‘ fumes;
- ‘ They’re fix’d for ever on the me-
- ‘ mory,
- ‘ And death alone ———
- ‘ Perhaps, not even death itself, obli-
- ‘ terates.’

I would not here be understood that a man should put his invention to the stretch for florid speeches, far-fetch’d metaphors,

taphors, and high-flown hyperboles in writing to his wife: — no, — it is not the business of a husband to shew his wit and learning, but his love, in these epistles; and if what he says seems to proceed from the heart, it will carry with it more weight and energy than all the rhetoric the schools can teach.

A letter of the sort I mean, from a gentleman to his wife, happen'd accidentally into my hands, and I think will be no unwelcome present to the public, as it appears to me to have in it that simplicity which is the surest mark of true affection.

To Mrs. *****,

“ Soul of my Soul,
 “ IT is with a great deal of pleasure,
 “ because I know it will give some to
 “ you, that I acquaint you with my safe
 “ arrival at **** this day about eleven,
 “ after a journey which had nothing disagreeable in it but the reflection that
 “ every minute carried me still farther
 “ from the best part of myself: my friends
 “ receiv'd me with a welcome which I
 “ have no cause to doubt the sincerity of;
 “ but the most pleasing part of it is the
 “ news

“ news that by my brother’s care my
“ affairs are put in such a forwardness
“ that instead of two months being de-
“ tain’d here, as I fear’d, I now flatter
“ myself that in less than half that time I
“ shall be able to set out again for Lon-
“ don, yet even that seems an age. — Oh!
“ my love, it is but three days since I left
“ you, yet am I impatient to return to
“ you and the precious pledges of our mu-
“ tual affection. — Methinks I hear my
“ little Charley cry, — mamma, when
“ will my papa come home? — and my
“ sweet Louisa, in her imperfect, and as
“ yet but half form’d accents, lisp out,
“ — Where is dada? — I wish their in-
“ nocent prattle, at which you us’d to
“ smile, may not now make you sad; —
“ but let it not, I beseech you, — I re-
“ peat the injunction I gave you at part-
“ ing, that you will take care of your-
“ self, and spare nothing that may con-
“ tribute to cheer your spirits; — this
“ is all the proof I shall ever exact
“ of your obedience as a wife. — Fare-
“ wel, thou dearest, thou everlasting
“ treasure of my soul; — my heart
“ swells with a thousand tender things,
“ but the post waits, and I have time
“ to add no more, than that all here
“ salute you with their best good wishes;
“ and

SECT. 12. *The* HUSBAND. 95

“ and that I am, what I hope you want
“ nothing to be convinced of,

“ Dearest life,

“ Your most affectionate

“ And ever faithful husband,

“ C. ***** ”

The recesses of the heart can only be discover'd by the all-seeing eye of Heaven ; and I will not take upon me to determine whether this gentleman in reality felt all that fervency of passion he pretended for his wife ; but this I may venture to say, that if his behaviour was in any measure conformable to his professions, she had no reason to be dissatisfied.

End of the FIRST BOOK.



THE



THE
HUSBAND.

BOOK II.



SECT. I.

On what seems the best method to prevent any ill-humour between a Husband and his Wife, on the score of what is call'd running cash.



HERE is such an enchantment in money to most people, that were all the goods of the whole world at their command, both for their own use and to bestow on those they had a mind to favour, yet would they

they not be content without having some portion of the darling specie in their possession.

We are, indeed, from our very infancy, taught to set a value upon money ; — we receive some small pittance of it from the first use we make of pockets. — As we increase in years the allowance is augmented in proportion ; and being thus early accustom'd to love it, it is not to be wonder'd at, that when we come to maturity we should think ourselves unhappy in the want of it, even tho' we had no immediate call to make use of it.

Yet, notwithstanding this, I once heard a husband say, — ‘ What business has my wife with money ! — I take care to provide every thing necessary both for her and the family ; — and if by chance any trifling circumstance should be omitted, I shall be willing to remedy that deficiency on her asking me.’

As no woman ought, and no woman of sense will expect to be the sole keeper of her husband's purse, yet would it be quite as unreasonable in him to exclude her entirely from it ; — she has an undoubted right to share with him in every thing, and should not be reduced to the condition of

a petitioner for what is as much her own as his.

There are some couples who, in order to prevent, as they may imagine, all heart-burnings and altercations between them on this account, agree that the money appropriated to common uses shall be thrown into a box, or the draw of a buroe, of which both having their separate key, each, without troubling the other, may take out at pleasure whatever they have, or think they have occasion for; — but this is a method which I can by no means approve of, as it gives too great a latitude to a wife inclin'd to be extravagant, and is liable to render the most frugal one suspected, either thro' some mistake in the sum deposited, or the husband's forgetting how far he himself may have diminish'd it: — both have wonder'd it has been so soon exhausted, — each has alternately accus'd the other; — so that instead of answering the end propos'd by this mutual liberty, it has often given rise to very high disputes, and even lasting dissensions.

According to my opinion, and the best observation I have been able to make, the most certain way of avoiding all contention on this head, is for the husband to
put

SECT. I. *The* HUSBAND. 99

put into his wife's hands every saturday or monday morning, as much money as they shall both agree in thinking convenient for their circumstances to allow for the expences of house-keeping per week.

This money is to be left entirely to the wife's management, — the husband ought to concern himself no farther about it; and if she takes care to provide as well and as plentifully as he has reason to expect, he ought not to enquire into the prices of any particular, nor is she oblig'd to give him an account; — if therefore, by her good œconomy, she can save any thing at the week's end, it is undoubtedly her own, and to be dispos'd of as she thinks proper.

In regard of invitations to company, — it would be highly unreasonable in him to expect she should furnish an entertainment out of the sum she ordinarily expended for the common necessaries of life; — he must therefore add to her allowance on these occasions in proportion to the number of the guests, and the manner in which he would have them treated.

I am very sensible, however, that this is liable to objections from both parties; — some wives will complain that their

allowance is not sufficient to defray the expences they are at, and some husbands that their tables are not so well supplied as they have reason to expect; — but these cavils are not so much owing to the method of proceeding I recommend, as to the unhappy disposition of the persons concern'd, — as I think it will be very easy for me to make appear.

The affair ought never to be concluded upon without being first seriously deliberated, both by the husband and the wife; — he should well consider what sort of living will besit the rank he holds in the world, and also what suits with the circumstances of his fortune: — the wife should calculate, as well as she is able, how far the sum he offers will answer the purpose he intends; — but as it is much more easy for him to allot than for her to ascertain herself whether that allotment will suffice, it will be prudent in her, before she gives her final answer, to make an essay of three or four weeks, — and then, either stand to the present agreement, or insist on such an augmentation as she shall find necessary.

After such a regulation I know of nothing in relation to domestic expences that can give rise to any disputes between
a hus-

SECT. I. *The* HUSBAND. 107

a husband and his wife, except mere ill-nature, and a desire of contention either on the one side or the other.

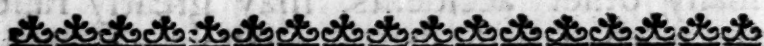
I cannot, however, take leave of this subject without reminding a husband, that either the inclemency of the weather, — extraordinary taxes laid by the government, — draughts, — inundations, and many other accidents, may greatly raise the price of provision at particular times; — he ought not, therefore, in such a case, to murmur if he finds his table less elegantly supplied than usual, — but resolve either to content himself with the diminution of his viands, or make an addition to his allowance, till the scarcity is over and the markets become more moderate.

The nobility, and others of a very elevated station, who leave these matters entirely to the management of their stewards and house-keepers, it is certain, have no manner of concern in these admonitions; and did I write for them alone, should ask their pardon for what would then be mere digression; but as the number of those whose lot is cast in an inferior sphere of life make much the greater part of the people, and consequently of my readers, the points contain'd in this, and some other sections, could not be

omitted in a work intended to be of as general utility as possible, — still keeping in my mind that true saying of the once celebrated Drayton :

‘ As all the bounties of th’ Almighty
‘ share,

‘ So all alike should be the good man’s
‘ care.’



S E C T. II.

Measures proper to be taken by a Husband who has a too parsimonious Wife.

IT is so very seldom that we see two persons meet in marriage, who are exactly of the same disposition and humour in every thing, that it much behoves a man, before he enters into that state, to guard well his heart against the shock it might otherwise sustain on finding his wife differ extremely from his way of thinking in some one particular point.

Whatever is a propensity in nature is not without great difficulty eradicated, by the best arguments and most solid reason-

reasonings; — but it will yet less submit to opposition, — every attempt to control rather renders it more obstinate; — authority may, indeed, prevent its breaking into action, but the latent seeds will still continue in the mind.

Parsimony and profuseness are two such jarring qualities, that where the one has dominion over the husband, and the other over the wife, little satisfaction can be hoped for between them; and there requires the greatest discretion and moderation, to keep not only themselves but their whole family, from being involved in perpetual broils and confusion.

First, as to parsimony; — a man of a liberal hospitable disposition cannot but be very unhappy with a woman who treats as the utmost prodigality whatever is beyond the common necessities of life, — looks sour on every one who happens to take a dinner at their table, and is ready to fall into fits on her husband's giving an invitation even to his best friend.

This disagreeable propensity is the more hard to be dealt with, as it has in some measure the appearance of a virtue, and among many people passes for such.

— A man who has a wife of this turn of thinking, no sooner testifies his dissatisfaction at her behaviour, on the score of an over frugality, than she presently answers him in the words of the old proverb, That fools make feasts, and wise men eat them; — and adds, that it would be highly ridiculous to expend in the furnishing one meal for the entertainment of persons who perhaps set no value on it, as much as would provide for the family for two, or it may be for three or four whole days; — that whatever could be spar'd out of their income ought to be carefully laid up; — that sickness, increase of taxes, and a thousand other accidents, which she will not fail to enumerate, may possibly happen; — but if providentially no misfortunes should happen to themselves, they ought, however, to think of their posterity, and save all they can for those they leave behind.

It is in vain he argues that the circumstances of his fortune will very well afford much more than he requires to be done, — she is not to be convinced by all he can say, and he has the mortification either of denying himself the pleasure of sometimes having his friends about him, or of seeing them treated with indiffe-

difference and coldness, or, it may be, with a rudeness which drives every one from his house.

Nothing is more common than for a man, when thus depriv'd of the society of his friends at home, to order an entertainment for them at a tavern, in which, it cannot be doubted, but that he must be at a much greater expence than would spread a more elegant, as well as more reputable regale on his own table.

I was once acquainted with a gentleman whose wife was penurious to that excess, that on the least intimation of any one intending to dine with him she always took care to provide the coarsest piece of meat the market would afford, in order that the cheapness of the joint might compensate for what part of it should be eaten by the guests. — She even grudg'd her family their necessary food, and would often turn away the most sober, diligent, and best qualified servant, for no other reason than having what she thought too keen an appetite.

My friend was a man addicted to no one vice, nor to any extravagance; but he loved to live handsomely, to keep good company, and to receive them in a gen-

teel manner; the behaviour of his wife therefore gave him a great deal of pain; — at first he expostulated with her in the mildest terms, — then proceeded to more austere remonstrances, — neither of which had the least effect upon her, — she only reply'd in the same trite phrases I just now repeated; so that despairing of success by argument, he at last bethought himself of a stratagem which flatter'd him with some hopes of gaining his point; — it was this:

‘ My dear, said he to her, I have been
 ‘ recapitulating in my mind all the fe-
 ‘ veral arguments I have heard you urge
 ‘ in favour of frugality, and am now
 ‘ thoroughly convinced, that there is no
 ‘ one virtue or good quality which so
 ‘ much conduces to the happiness of hu-
 ‘ man kind, and am determin'd hence-
 ‘ forward to lay out nothing I can save
 ‘ with common decency.’

He told me, that while he was speaking he could perceive a pleas'd surprize wander and diffuse itself over all her features; and when he had done, she cry'd out, —
 ‘ If you can keep in this mind, my dear,
 ‘ it will be a joyful change indeed!’

‘ You

‘ You may depend I shall think always
 ‘ as I now do, resum’d he : you must
 ‘ know I have been considering on all
 ‘ the possible ways and means to diminish
 ‘ the charge we at present live in. — In
 ‘ the first place, I am resolv’d to part
 ‘ with my horse ; — hay, — oats, —
 ‘ stable-hire in winter, grass in summer,
 ‘ and farriers bills, run away with a great
 ‘ deal of money.’

‘ It is very true, my dear, said she, I
 ‘ always thought it a very needless ex-
 ‘ pence ; but as you seem’d to think
 ‘ riding was good for your health, I
 ‘ forbore offering any thing in opposition
 ‘ to it.’ — ‘ I shall trust to walking for
 ‘ the future, answer’d he, and do not
 ‘ doubt but it may be of equal service ;
 ‘ nature is the best judge, and as she has
 ‘ given to man two sturdy legs for his
 ‘ support, I see no reason why he should
 ‘ have recourse to those of an animal.

‘ Besides, continued he, I can then
 ‘ turn off my man, — a boy can whet
 ‘ knives, — attend the door, — run on
 ‘ errands, and serve our purpose full as
 ‘ well, for much less wages.’

‘ Aye, cry’d the wife, quite transported, and his livery cost less too : —
 ‘ I know nothing these great hulking foot-
 ‘ men are good for but to loyter about
 ‘ the house, — devour all they can get
 ‘ into their clutches, — romp with the
 ‘ maids, and hinder them from doing
 ‘ their business.’

‘ True, rejoin’d the gentleman, and
 ‘ since you mention the maids, I have
 ‘ also thought of a reform among them
 ‘ too : — Suppose we could get a couple
 ‘ of Roman Catholic girls, — the number
 ‘ of fast days, besides Lent and Ember
 ‘ weeks, enjoin’d by their church, would
 ‘ be a great saving to us in the article of
 ‘ house-keeping ?’

‘ It would, indeed, reply’d she, especially if we could procure those who
 ‘ are pious enough to keep Black Lent,
 ‘ and live almost three parts of the year
 ‘ on dry’d fish and potatoes, without eggs
 ‘ or butter. — I assure you I shall make
 ‘ it my business to enquire after two
 ‘ such.’

‘ I think now, said he, there remains
 ‘ but one thing more to complete a total
 ‘ regulation of our oeconomy, — which is
 ‘ tea.’

‘ tea.’ — ‘ Tea! cry’d she hastily.’ —
 ‘ Yes, my dear, pursued he, I look upon
 ‘ afternoon’s tea as one of the greatest
 ‘ superfluities that custom has introduced
 ‘ among us. — I have calculated the ex-
 ‘ pence, and dare venture to affirm that a
 ‘ very moderate tea-table, with all its
 ‘ equipage, cannot be supported under
 ‘ forty or fifty pounds per annum; —
 ‘ therefore I insist upon it no more tea-
 ‘ table invitations.

‘ Are you in earnest, demanded she!’
 ‘ — Yes, reply’d he, and I expect you
 ‘ will agree to so reasonable a proposal.’
 ‘ — Rather the most absurd, — the most
 ‘ preposterous one that ever was, return’d
 ‘ she! — Would any gentleman, or man
 ‘ of honour, deny his wife her tea-table!’

‘ Yes, madam, resum’d he, any man
 ‘ of sense or spirit would do it, when
 ‘ denied by his wife a couple of chickens
 ‘ and a bottle of wine extraordinary at
 ‘ his table for the entertainment of his
 ‘ friend. — I do not desire to deprive
 ‘ you of any of the enjoyments of life,
 ‘ nor would I be depriv’d myself, by
 ‘ your too niggardly humour, of such as
 ‘ are consistent with my character and
 ‘ fortune in the world. — I am therefore
 ‘ determin’d that either our way of living
 ‘ shall

‘ shall be uniform, — which is either in
 ‘ all things to appear as we ought to do,
 ‘ or, if like misers or beggars in some
 ‘ things, to do so in all.’

On these words, it seems, she sat sullen
 and silent for some time, and he went on,
 — ‘ I would fain have you, therefore,
 ‘ continued he, to consider seriously what
 ‘ is due to your own character as well as
 ‘ mine ; — both which demand that our
 ‘ servants shall have no reason to com-
 ‘ plain of the want of their necessary
 ‘ food ; that whatever friends I think
 ‘ proper to invite should always be re-
 ‘ ceived with a chearful countenance,
 ‘ and in every respect handsomely enter-
 ‘ tain’d.’

‘ And so ruin both you and myself,
 ‘ cried she hastily.’ — ‘ No, reply’d he, I
 ‘ am an enemy to extravagance and
 ‘ superfluity ; — what I desire of you is
 ‘ to observe a decent hospitality, of which
 ‘ I know you are a perfect judge, if
 ‘ once you give yourself leisure to re-
 ‘ flect.’

After some farther discourse, she at last
 consented to do as he would have her ; on
 which he was entirely satisfied in his
 mind, not doubting but that she would,
 rather

SECT. 2. *The* HUSBAND. III

rather than be depriv'd of her favourite tea-table, be punctual in the performance of her promise, and that by this stratagem he had gain'd the point he aim'd at.

He conquer'd, it must be confess'd ; but how did he conquer ? — and what did his victory avail him ? — she kept up a tolerable table, indeed, and forced herself to behave with civility to those who happen'd sometimes to eat there ; but the pain it cost her in doing this vented itself in murmurs and repinings as soon as they were gone ; — so that whatever satisfaction he enjoy'd with his friends while present, was sure to be embitter'd with the discontents of his wife the moment they were alone together.

The humour of this woman, never very agreeable, became at last quite insupportable ; — unable to endure it, he sought abroad that peace he no longer could find at home ; it was his misfortune to fall into ill company, and was led by them into debaucheries he had never shewn the least inclination to before ; — the excesses he was guilty of, both as to wine and women, brought on the ruin of his fortune, and, in a pretty swift progression of time, put an end to his life.

If the soft and gentle measures which this gentleman at first took with his wife fail'd of the desired success, how can any man expect better who attempts it by an arbitrary and authoritative way of proceeding? — He may, indeed, have his table furnish'd as he pleases, either by taking the direction of it out of his wife's hands, and putting it under those of a house-keeper, or by being his own caterer; — but then what peace, — what harmony can be hoped for between such a couple? — And as it is not the design of these pages to inform a husband how far it is in his power to have his will obey'd, but how it may be obey'd without creating trouble and distraction in his family, I shall take the liberty to point out one simple and easy method, which seems to me the most effectual of any for that purpose.

There is nothing shews itself sooner than a parsimonious disposition; — a husband will presently discover it; and, as I have already observ'd, there is little probability of changing nature: I would not have him seem any way offended at it, or even to take notice of it; — a very small share of contrivance will serve him to supply his table with whatever deficiencies he
may

may find there, without occasioning any disputes between him and his too sparing wife: — he need only to order such things as he thinks proper to be brought into his house as presents from some friend or relation in the country, or other person whom he may pretend he either has had an opportunity of obliging, or is at that time solliciting some favour from him.

To my certain knowledge, this is a method which has frequently been practis'd with success: — I have seen a lady who could scarce be civil to any one who sat down to eat a bit of mutton of her providing, carve chearfully to her guests of ortolans and venison, and do all the honours of her table with the greatest grace, when she imagin'd the entertainment was no expence to her husband.

I am well aware that there is a haughtiness in the nature of most men, which would make them cry out against this advice, and say, — they would not be at the pains I recommend to humour any woman: — but then I would have every one who thinks in this manner and is a husband, to consider seriously that the woman I am perswading him to humour is his wife, — the woman whom he is bound

bound by indissoluble ties to live with his whole life, and whose affection it behoves him above all things to preserve. — It comes very near to an impossibility for any two persons to live always together in a perfect harmony, without mutually resolving to yield a little to the passions and propensities of each other; and as domestic peace can scarce ever be too dearly purchas'd, that husband will be much to blame who is too proud to contribute something towards it on his part.

But while I am thus putting a husband in the way how he should deal with a parsimonious wife, the ladies would have reason to accuse me of very great injustice to them, if I did not at the same time remind every man, who may happen to have this propensity in himself, that he ought to be extremely careful in concealing it, especially in such things as relate to house-keeping, and are under the direction of his wife.

A niggardly and inhospitable disposition is yet more unbecoming in a man than in a woman; — a husband must appear very contemptible in the eyes of a woman of spirit when he enquires the price of every thing he sees on his table,
— cries,

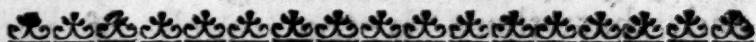
SECT. 2. *The* HUSBAND. 115

— cries, — that one thing is too dear, and that there is too much of another : — if he will be sparing, let it be in things which appertain entirely to himself, for this is an article in which few women will endure contradiction, and nothing more lessens the character of a man than interfering in it.

There may, indeed, and I am afraid are some instances of profuseness and extravagance in a wife, which it would neither be safe nor prudent in a husband to pass over without endeavouring to retrench, but the manner in which he should do it must be the business of another section.



SECT



S E C T. III.

In what particulars a good Husband is authorised to restrain the Profusion of his Wife.

PROFUSENESS in a wife is almost universally look'd upon as a worse quality than parsimony, — yet in such matters as relate merely to house-keeping I cannot think it to be such; — a man must have a very narrow mind who makes either himself or his wife uneasy on seeing his table serv'd with somewhat more than is barely necessary. — I believe few husbands can complain of being ruined by this one article; and if the lady's love of elegant superfluities stops here, and goes no farther lengths, it ought not, in my opinion, to be too severely check'd by her husband, even tho' it should happen to prove of some small inconvenience to the circumstances of his fortune.

I am very sensible that there are too many instances in which this propensity has run into excesses, not only ridiculous in the eyes of the more discerning part of the world, but also of the most dangerous
con-

SECT. 3. *The* HUSBAND. 117

consequences to the persons guilty of them: — when a woman, married to a petty tradesman, shall pretend to vie with the wife of an opulent merchant; or that of a merchant with those of the noblesse in the richness of apparel, the magnificence of furniture, the number of servants, and the giving into the modish pleasures of the town, the husband of such a wife, both for her sake as well as his own, ought to lay some restraint on her behaviour.

I am informed, by unquestionable authority, that there are some ladies who of late have invented, and put into practice, extravagancies such as not even the most vain and luxurious of their ancestors ever took into their heads to be guilty of, and which could not hereafter be believ'd by their posterity, if the ruin of those fortunes they at present think themselves born to enjoy would not be a sad conviction of the truth.

Among the many instances I could give of this destructive folly, I shall content myself with only two, which being in women of vastly different stations, may serve as a specimen of the rest.

A young mercer having a competent fortune to set up his business with reputation,

tation, hired a very handsome house in one of the best streets in the city, where having a well-stock'd shop and a great number of friends and acquaintance who were his customers themselves, and recommended him to others, several of whom were of the highest rank, he was look'd upon to be in as thriving a way as any man of the trade; — every thing corresponding with his wishes he wanted nothing but a wife, which he took in a short time; — but his choice was govern'd more by inclination than interest, — the woman he married having no other portion than a very pretty face; — all, however, might have been well, if a fatal ambition of appearing with a grandeur to which she was no way entitled, had not render'd them as miserable as they otherwise might have been happy.

This unthinking woman, taking the advantage of the extreme fondness she found in her husband towards her, spar'd nothing that might indulge her lavish inclination: — she no sooner discover'd she was pregnant than she began to long, not for meats or drinks, which how costly soever they might have been, could not have prov'd of any great detriment to his fortune, but for a new gown of every fine piece of silk that came into the shop: when

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when the time of her lying-in approach'd, she would needs have a bed, chairs, settee, and the hangings of her chamber, of a rich French brocade, valued at two guineas per yard : — the most gorgeous screen St. Paul's Church-yard produced was bought to keep the least breath of air out of the room, the floor of which was all cover'd with a Turkey carpet ; — she received company on her sitting up in a silver Tissue, her child's mantle was of the same stuff : — in a word, every thing about her was of a piece, all equally magnificent ; and the elegance of her taste would doubtless have been admir'd, if her station had not render'd it ridiculous.

The husband, it seems, was very discontented during all these preparations, and often remonstrated to her how unbecoming such grandeur was in a person of his rank, and also how prejudicial to his circumstances, as the money squander'd this way, if laid out in trade, might bring in double the sum ; but whenever he talk'd in this manner she began to whimper, and said it was very hard that she might not have every thing she had a mind to on the birth of her first child ; — he lov'd with too much tenderness to resist her tears, and granted all she ask'd.

I was

I was well assur'd by those who were perfectly acquainted with the affairs of these unhappy persons, that the birth of this child cost the father little less than seven hundred pounds ; — nor was this all, — the fair inconsiderate must afterwards take a trip to Bath, for the recovery of her strength, and the weakening of her husband's purse.

When a tradesman is known to live any thing above the profits of his business, and does not make regular payments to those he deals with, he is presently suspected to have run out, and every one takes the best measures he can to avoid being a loser by him : — it was at least the case of this too indulgent husband, — bills came upon him much sooner than he expected, or than they would otherwise have done ; — the creditors would accept of no excuses, — all his effects were sold, and the money distributed among them, which being far short of answering the whole of their demands, he was look'd upon as sufficiently favour'd in not being depriv'd of his liberty for the remainder.

Tho' extravagancies of this kind are neither consider'd as so preposterous, nor bring on such immediate destruction in persons

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persons of high rank, as in those of a meaner class, yet we are not without some melancholy examples of honourable and noble families whose posterity are reduced to a very low ebb by the prodigality of their ancestors.

I could wish that in the present age, there were no ladies to be found whose conduct in this point is such as cannot but furnish matter of astonishment to succeeding generations, and must infallibly render their immediate descendants objects rather of compassion than respect.

There are many steps in the ladder of human life; — some are placed on the topmost, — others on the very lowest; and for my part, I look upon these last to be much the happiest people; — they are, generally speaking, contented with their lot, — seek no farther than the sphere in which they were born, and act like the most reasonable beings: — whereas those on the middle rounds, having a nearer prospect of grandeur, are too apt to be intoxicated with it, — they exert all their powers to climb a little higher, and if fortune happens to favour their endeavours, are yet as unsatisfied as ever, nor

G

can

can rest while they see any thing above them. — The ambition of men and the pride of women, I take to be the same passion operating by different methods, and for different ends; and what the ingenious Mr. Otway says of the one, I think may with great propriety be applied to the other.

- Ambition is a lust that's never
 ' quench'd,
- Grows more inflam'd, and madder by
 ' enjoyment.'

A young person having been, to the amazement of the whole town, and infinitely beyond her own most sanguine hopes, rais'd to the bed of a nobleman, she no sooner saw herself his wife, than she thought of nothing but how to give her new station all the eclat it would admit of; — she seem'd to think that wasting money was a necessary appendix to the character of a woman of quality: — it would be too tedious to mention the particulars of her extravagancy in dress, furniture, equipage, and entertainments; — one may serve as a sample of the rest; — she gave six hundred pounds at once for the hire of jewels, only to gratify the vanity of out-shining a certain dutchess

SECT. 3. *The* HUSBAND. 123

dutchess for two or three hours at a masquerade.

I must confess myself extremely shock'd on being told that this last, and certainly the most egregious act of profusion that ever was invented, is like to grow up into a fashion; but am more particularly concern'd to find it follow'd by a lady, whose husband's estate, even with the best œconomy, is scarce sufficient to support the dignity of his illustrious birth.

There needs, indeed, no spirit of prophecy to foretel what such wild extravagancies must end in: — a husband therefore cannot be said to have any true affection for his wife who suffers her to pursue courses, which, sooner or later, must necessarily involve both her and himself in one common ruin.

A man therefore, in justice to himself and family, should, on the first discovery of such a disposition in his wife, make use of his utmost efforts to put a check upon it; for the torrent of prodigality, if the least indulg'd, will soon grow too powerful for restraint, and overflow all the bounds of prudence and mo-

deration ; — but then I would have him, as in the other extreme, treated on in the preceeding section, to begin with gentle arguments and soft perswasion : — let him use all the rhetoric that love and the consideration of their mutual interest can supply him with, to prevail on her to forbear going into expences so destructive ; — and if all he urges on this score prove ineffectual, he then must and ought to exert the authority of a husband, so far as to lay an embargo on her purse, which, how much soever she may complain of, there is no reasonable person will condemn him for.





S E C T. IV.

Some measures to be taken by a Husband in regard of the kindred of his Wife, which he will not fail to find his account in, more ways than one.

TH^{O'} natural affection to kindred, and even the due reverence and obedience to parents, be pretty much out of doors in these latter ages of the world, yet I have observ'd that those who think most lightly of their duties in this point are very well pleas'd to find their families treated with respect by others; — they look upon it as a kind of veneration paid to themselves; and therefore, if for no other reason, never fail of being highly oblig'd by it.

A husband can seldom find a greater opportunity of endearing himself to his wife, than by treating her kindred with tenderness and respect, so would not have him by any means neglect it; nor should he, in his devoirs to them, seem to have any view either to his own interest or their particular merit; but shew he thinks it sufficient that they belong to her to en-

gage his friendship and esteem ; and if she should happen to be at variance with any of them, to make use of his utmost efforts to bring about a reconciliation.

I am the more strenuous in recommending this point to every married man, as it has fallen in my way to be an eye-witness of the good effects it is capable of producing.

A young lady, while under guardianship, had been persuaded to commence a process against a near kinsman, on account of an uncle's effects who had died intestate ; — the affair not being decided when she married, must now be carried on in her husband's name ; but that gentleman was no sooner told of it, than he absolutely refus'd giving any orders to that end ; and turning to his wife surpriz'd her with the reason he gave for having taken this resolution :

‘ My dear, said he, taking hold of one
 ‘ of her hands, and looking tenderly
 ‘ upon her, — How justifiable soever
 ‘ your claim may be, I cannot forget
 ‘ that the person against whom you ex-
 ‘ pect I should appear as plaintiff is your
 ‘ father's brother's son, — a person whose
 ‘ veins run with the same blood as
 ‘ yours,

‘ every drop of which is too precious
 ‘ to me ever to offend ; — no, let this
 ‘ curs’d cause drop, and all matter of con-
 ‘ tention cease.’

It is impossible to express the astonish-
 ment into which these words threw every
 one that heard them, among whom was
 myself and the lawyer who had been en-
 trusted with the management of the suit ;
 — no one being able to make any im-
 mediate reply, the husband went on in
 this manner :

‘ Sir, continued he, addressing him-
 ‘ self to the lawyer, — I desire you will
 ‘ put an immediate stop to all proceed-
 ‘ ings in this cause, I will see the gentle-
 ‘ man myself, — discourse with him on
 ‘ the matter in dispute, — and if I can-
 ‘ not bring him to any reasonable agree-
 ‘ ment, at least convince him that the
 ‘ man who is in possession of his lovely
 ‘ kinswoman wants no other treasure, nor
 ‘ can be at enmity with any of her
 ‘ family.’

I will not trouble my reader with the
 repetition of what conversation ensued
 after he had declar’d himself in this man-
 ner, — I shall only say that his wife, tho’
 she a little oppos’d the giving up what

she had been made to believe was her undoubted right, could discover both in her looks and voice, that her heart was transported with receiving so uncommon a proof of her husband's affection for her in the complaisance he shew'd her family.

My friend delay'd no longer than the next day to do as he had said, — he requested a meeting with his wife's kinsman, which being readily granted, after such previous salutations as might be expected between gentlemen of a polite education, he told him, that he had an utter aversion to all contests between persons so nearly allied; — that he had order'd no farther proceedings should be carried on on his part, desiring only that a jewel, or rather a knot of jewels, which had long been in the family, should be yielded to his wife; concluding this proposal with saying, — I believe, sir, you will allow that no bosom in the world will more become this ornament than that of your fair kinswoman.

This offer both surpriz'd and charm'd the person to whom it was made; — whether he doubted the justice of his cause or not, I will not take upon me to determine, but have heard him since confess he had little peace of mind during the
the

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the time it had been carrying on, and was continually reflecting on the uncertainty of a law decision, according to the humorous poet :

- ‘ For lawyers, lest bear defendant,
- ‘ And plaintiff dogs should make an
‘ end on’t,
- ‘ Do slave, and toil, with writs of error,
- ‘ Reverse of judgment, and demurrer,
- ‘ To let ’em breath a while, and then
- ‘ Cry whoop, and set ’em on agen,
- ‘ Until with subtle cobweb cheats,
- ‘ They’re catch’d in knotted law, like
‘ nets ;
- ‘ In which when once they are imbran-
‘ gled,
- ‘ The more they stir, the more they’re
‘ tangled ;
- ‘ And while their purses can dispute,
- ‘ There’s no end of th’ immortal suit.

In fine, the kinsman was quite in raptures on the making up an affair which had given him much disquiet ; — he not only surrender’d the jewel demanded, but also, not to be behindhand with his new relation in generosity, gave up many other things of very great value, perhaps as much as my friend would have gain’d had the suit been continued and a judgment given in his favour ; — so exor-

bitant are the costs of law, that, as Mr. Dryden truly says,

- ‘ Truths are so travers’d, and so little
- ‘ won,
- ‘ That he who conquers, is but last
- ‘ undone.’

By this action he not only became so much endear’d to his wife that she almost ador’d him, but was ever after look’d upon, by all her kindred, as a prodigy of love and generosity, — two things which very well compensated for any loss he might have sustain’d by refusing to continue the prosecution against her cousin.

Every husband has not, indeed, the same opportunity this gentleman had of shewing, in so extraordinary a manner, his tenderness for his wife in the complaisance he paid to her kindred ; yet all may do it in a more or less degree, and I cannot but look on any man who omits it, as ignorant of a very great essential to his own happiness.

I think I may venture to set it down as an unfailing maxim, that nothing more contributes to render the marriage state truly amicable, than for both parties to treat the families of each other with more respect

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respect than they do their own; — the behaviour of the husband will go a great way in setting an example to his wife in this point, and when they mutually concur in it, the two families will be cemented in such a bond of unity and friendship as to seem but one.

I know very well that some objections will be started, which, at first sight, may seem to take off the weight of these admonitions: — it may be said, and with good reason too, that there are people who have not gratitude to return any obligation conferr'd upon them, or even to think any thing is so; — and in such a case, a man in soliciting their good graces would only have the mortification to find his complaisance rejected.

It may also be alledg'd, that if in the incident I have been relating, the wife's kinsman had prov'd refractory, and affected to think he had put a stop to the process only because he fear'd the issue of a trial, the other could have reap'd no advantage by his generosity, but on the contrary, it is probable, been treated with contempt.

But whoever shall pretend to argue in this manner must not have well consider'd

the drift of my intention in giving this advice, as I can easily make appear : — the untoward disposition of the kinsman could not have depriv'd the husband of any part of that advantage, which was the main point he had in view, — that of endearing himself to the affection of the woman to whom he was for life united, and this he would as effectually have done by having made such an offer, as by its being accepted.

It is certain, however, that by using his endeavours to obtain the good-will of his wife's kindred, it is impossible for him ever to be a loser, and may, in the end, become a very great gainer. — I cannot be so uncharitable as not to hope and believe, that there are but few people of such harsh and rugged natures as not to be soften'd and won over by repeated acts of tenderness ; and I am very sure, that those of a more gentle kind will always take care to repay double-fold whatever obligations they receive.

And here I cannot omit giving one example of the latter sort, which I doubt not but will be as agreeable to my readers as it was to myself, on being first made acquainted with it, and therefore will not be look'd upon as superfluous.

A gentle-

A gentleman of very great worth and a competent estate, being married to a young lady whom he had long courted and most passionately lov'd, wisely judg'd that he could not take a more effectual method of convincing her of the continuance of his affection, nor of securing an adequate return from her, than by behaving with the utmost regard to all those who were any way related to her.

Her mother, above all, he was most particularly assiduous to oblige: — she was a widow lady, and living in a pretty remote county, he very frequently address'd himself to her in letters full of submission and respect, nor seldom fail'd to accompany those testimonies of his love and duty with some little present or other; — such as fine teas, — hampers of rich wines, and such-like things, which he knew she could not be accommodated with in such perfection in the place where she resided.

On hearing she intended to make him a visit at London, and to stay some weeks there, he order'd the best apartment in his house to be fitted up with the utmost elegance for her reception, — rode up-
wards

wards of thirty miles to meet her on the road; and, in fine, omitted nothing that she might have expected from him if he had been her own son and an entire dependant on her.

The next morning after her arrival he put into her hands a small piece of paper, saying to her at the same time, — ‘ I beg, madam, you will accept this
‘ little tribute of my love and duty,
‘ tho’ without any other merit than as
‘ it flows from the abundance of the
‘ heart.’

‘ I can answer for that, subjoin’d his wife,
‘ laughing; — for I assure you, madam, he
‘ started out of bed this morning much
‘ sooner than is his usual custom, and said
‘ to me, — Oh, Maria, how happy does
‘ your mother’s presence make us! —
‘ then sat down to his buroe and wrote
‘ what you will find in the paper he has
‘ given you.’

The old lady made no reply, but hastily unfolded the paper, which contain’d these lines :

To

To the Honourable Mrs. ****.
From her most dutiful and truly affectionate son.

‘ Welcome! — thrice welcome! —
‘ best of womankind!
‘ Source of my joys! — bless’d parent
‘ of my love;
‘ Dearer than her from whom I first
‘ drew breath,
‘ She but fulfill’d the task which nature
‘ fet,
‘ And gave me to the world: — you
‘ have done more!
‘ Have given Maria to my longing
‘ arms,
‘ And made that world a paradise of
‘ blifs!
‘ Which else had been a scene of dreary
‘ cares,
‘ Without one quick’ning charm to
‘ brighten life.
‘ Once more, most welcome to my
‘ house and heart,
‘ Long may your presence grace my
‘ grateful board,
‘ And do, what nothing but yourself
‘ can do,
‘ Add still to mine, and your Maria’s
‘ joys.’

The good lady was quite charm'd with every word she read; and these verses, which perhaps cost him not five minutes in the composing, gain'd him five hundred pounds; for before she went out of town she sent for a lawyer and made a deed of gift to him of that sum on the birth of the child her daughter was then pregnant with.

It would be easy for me to bring many instances of this kind, which have come within the compass of my own knowledge and observation; but the advantages which a husband must naturally find in rendering himself well in the love and esteem of a family into which he is initiated, and made as it were a part, are too numerous and too obvious to every one's capacity to stand in need of any explanation or argument to prove: — if there were, however, no other than the one, which this treatise is chiefly intended to promote, — that of endearing himself to the affection of his wife, — no man, I think, who reflects seriously on the state in which he is engag'd, will despise as beneath his attention, the measures I recommend for the accomplishment of a work so material to his happiness.

SECT.



S E C T. V.

Giving way to rage on every trivial occasion, — how unbecoming in a man of sense, more especially after he is married.

IT is certainly a very great fault in parents, tutors, governors, or any who take upon themselves the education of youth, not to put an early check on those fiery seeds of wrath which they will find in the composition of some pupils, and which, if suffer'd to go on, will still increase and gather strength with their years, till they become intolerable in maturity.

Pride, the predominant passion of mankind, too often hinders those of the best understanding from perceiving this error in themselves; and when they do, from taking pains to correct what from their infancy they have been permitted to indulge; — so that they are liable to run into the most ridiculous, and sometimes dangerous excesses, without ever reflecting that what they do is look'd upon as such.

I have

I have seen a man throw a chair out of the window, only because it did not stand just in the same place it used to do; — kick his valet de chambre, or barber, down stairs if the napkin under his chin, when going to be shav'd, happen'd to be tuck'd too loosely or too strait; — beat his own head against the wall if a cry in the street displeased him; and a thousand such like follies, which one would think no man in his senses could be guilty of; — and yet the same person shall, at other times, behave with all the softness, good humour, and politeness imaginable.

It would be well, methinks, if every man of this cast would have his room hung round with looking-glasses, to the end that seeing himself in the deformity of his rage, his mind might be so struck with shame at the shocking resemblance, as to make him remember it enough to refrain appearing again in the same manner.

I remember to have read, in the works of one of our old poets, a passage which I think gives a pretty picturesque description of an angry man:

Enor-

- ‘ Enormous rage distended ev’ry vein,
- ‘ And all hell’s furies o’er his breast
- ‘ did reign.
- ‘ Swoln with mad ire, his blood-shot
- ‘ eyes did glare,
- ‘ Like ruddy meteors, blazing in the
- ‘ air.’

Anger, when provok’d by real injuries, if it arrives at any height, is justly term’d a short-lived madness ; but when inflam’d by accidents too frivolous to merit the least attention from a man of reason, what name can it deserve? — Sure there is none in language can convey a just idea of its extreme absurdity !

What can a new married woman think on her first seeing her husband in one of these tourbillions of outrageous passion? — If she happens to be of a meek and timid disposition, it may throw her into fits ; — if of a more bold and daring one, it is likely enough that she will reproach him in terms which may rather increase than abate the fury in his brain. — If she has prudence enough to seem to take no notice of it, which is doubtless the best method she can pursue, that very prudence, in spite even of herself, will
very

very much lessen the esteem she had for him before her discovery of his follies.

It will but a very little avail him to say, that it is not with her he has been angry; — that he loves with too much tenderness for any thing she can do ever to make him so: — for, besides that she will scarce believe him in this point, and think herself obliged to put a guard on all her words and actions; his behaviour to others will make her see into his soul, and find there such a void, both of religion and morality, as if she is endued with the least portion of either cannot but render her extremely unhappy.

What peace of mind can that wife be supposed to enjoy, who whenever her husband stays abroad longer than she expected; or, indeed, whenever he is out of her sight, even for the smallest time, knows not but he may that moment be committing some rash action which may lay him under the censure of the law, or perhaps be quarrelling with his best friend, be either kill'd or killing; — certainly, the greater degree of virtue, good understanding, or affection for him she is possess'd of, the greater must be the inquietudes she perpetually sustains.

It

It is an observation which I have very often heard made, — that people addicted to these violent passions are better natur'd than those of a more equal disposition; — but, for my own part, I could never find any one reason to support this argument, — unless it were, that on coming out of their frenzy they severely reflected, which I am afraid is seldom the case, on the follies they had been guilty of, and were desirous of making some atonement by a quite different manner of behaviour.

But allowing it to be so, and that these Iracundians were really endued with a greater share of sincerity, benevolence, and liberality than others generally are, what satisfaction would these excellent qualities, with the addition of a thousand more, be capable of affording to those about them, when they could not assure themselves but that in a moment some fresh accident, light as the turning of a feather, might in a moment convert all the present harmony into discord and confusion?

But to live in a continual dread is not always the worst misfortune may befall a woman who is united to a man of this
fiery

fiery temper, — events have sometimes happen'd to fullfil the most terrible of her apprehensions, and to involve not only herself, but all belonging to her, in the greatest calamities.

A fatal and most shocking demonstration of this truth happen'd not very many years ago, — a brief detail of which will not, I believe, be an improper present to my readers in this place, as it can give offence to no one living, and may prove a beneficial warning to those who survive, and are of the unhappy disposition I am speaking of.

According to all appearance there never was a more fortunate marriage than that between the two persons, the melancholy catastrophe of whose fate I am going to relate : — They were both descended from good families, had handsome fortunes, but love was the chief motive of their union, and they lived together for upwards of four years in a manner which promis'd their felicity would be as lasting as their lives.

He was, however, of that unhappy disposition which is the subject of this section : — the lady had a brother who was exactly of the same, yet had these
jarring

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jarring spirits never happen'd to clash till one dreadful night ; just after they had all three supp'd together, a dispute arose between the two gentlemen concerning the true pronounciation of this line in Shakespear's Moor of Venice :

‘ Put out the light, — and then, —
‘ put out the light.’

Each of them would have it their own way, — both were equally positive, and some hasty words being dropp'd, either on the one side or the other, their swords were immediately out : — the wife, who a little before had stepp'd into the next room on some occasion, on hearing the bustle return'd, but too late for any endeavours she could use to hinder the sad event ; — the moment she enter'd her brother fell, — crying out, — ‘ Oh !
‘ I am kill'd !’ — The husband ran to him, and fearing it was indeed as he had said, spoke nothing but went directly to his closet, and having taken out of his buree what bills and money he had there, quitted the house that instant ; but just as he was doing so, call'd to the servants, who being all in the kitchen had heard nothing of what pass'd above, — ‘ Go, said
‘ he to his man, fly with all the speed
‘ you

‘ you can for a surgeon, — my brother
‘ has hurt himself.’

In the mean time horror and astonishment had froze up all the faculties of the wretched wife ; — she saw her brother lie weltering in his blood, a pale and breathless corpse ; — the person who had reduced him to this condition was her husband, — a husband most dear to her, and whom all laws, both human and divine, oblig’d her to protect : — no words can paint the misery of such a situation ; — but long it was not that she endur’d the pain of thought, — sense was too weak to bear it, and she sunk beneath the weight.

There were two servant-maids in the house, who on hearing what their master had said to his man as he went out, imagined that something extraordinary had happen’d and ran up stairs, where beholding their mistress lying on the floor near the body of her slaughter’d brother, the dreadful sight struck them with such a consternation as render’d them incapable either of assisting the one, or lamenting the other.

The surgeon who was sent for, and lived but in the next street, came in, and finding

finding the gentleman was past the reach of his art to recal, turn'd his whole care upon the lady, whom he soon brought to herself; but it was only to give a great shriek, and cry out, 'Oh my brother! 'Oh my husband!' and then fell into a second convulsion.

She was carried to her chamber and laid upon the bed, — no help was wanting; but her fits continued the whole night, and in the intervals she appear'd very delirious. — The footman ran to an uncle of his master's, and to several other relations, who all hasted thither; but it would be too tedious to repeat the particulars of their confusion on the sad occasion which had call'd them.

As for the poor wife, — youth, and a good constitution, at last got the better of her convulsions, so far as to prevent that terrible disorder from taking away her life; — but, alas! it had seiz'd on her brain, and depriv'd her of what alone can make life a blessing, — her Reason, — which she never more recover'd the right use of.

The husband, who even in the first agonies of his remorse for what he had done, had yet some consideration of his own safety, as I think has pretty plainly
H appear'd,

appear'd, made his escape to Holland, where as soon as he arriv'd he wrote a letter to his wife; but that wretched lady not being in a condition to receive it, it was deliver'd to the uncle, who had taken upon him the care of every thing belonging to that unhappy family. — The contents of the letter were as follow :

To Mrs. S———.

“ Dear partner of my griefs,
 “ as once of all my joys,

“ **T**HE dreadful occasion of my
 “ leaving you allow'd no time for
 “ bidding farewell; — I had robb'd you
 “ of a brother, and flew to preserve to
 “ you a husband, who wishes to live
 “ only for your consolation. — I need
 “ not tell you I had no premeditated
 “ malice; — you know how dear poor
 “ Ned was to me, as well for his own
 “ merits as because he shar'd your blood:
 “ — but we were both too rash, and
 “ chance, cruel chance, took the ad-
 “ vantage to destroy him, and with him
 “ all my future peace. — As we were
 “ exchanging thrusts, — I cannot tell
 “ how it happen'd; — but his foot
 “ slipp'd and threw him on my sword;
 “ — I was only the unhappy instrument
 “ of fate, — forgive the involuntary
 “ crime

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“ crime and haste to join me, that we
“ may consult together in what part of
“ the world to settle for the remainder of
“ our melancholy days, in case my friends
“ should not have interest enough with
“ the government to procure my pardon.
“ I am lodg’d at the Black Eagle
“ at Rotterdam, where I shall impatiently
“ expect your arrival. — You may
“ leave the management of our affairs
“ intirely to my uncle, — I know he
“ will be a very faithful steward. — As
“ ships are continually coming into this
“ port there will be no danger of your
“ waiting for a passage, which pray Heaven
“ may be safe and speedy to the
“ arms of him who is,

“ With inviolable fidelity,

“ My dear soul,

“ Your most affectionate

“ Tho’ unfortunate husband,

“ R. S —.”

This was immediately answer’d by the uncle, with an account of the sad effects which his late rash action had produced on his wife; — the intelligence of this unexpected misfortune, perhaps too being express’d in terms too pathetic for the present situation of that unhappy gentleman’s mind

to sustain, threw him into a deep melancholy, — and that into a languishing disease, which, within the compass of a few months, took him from the world.

A violent and over-hasty behaviour is not always, indeed, punish'd with the same terrible consequences; but that they do not more frequently happen may be wonder'd at by those who do not believe the interposition of a Divine Providence, which sometimes vouchsafes to protect men even in spite of themselves.

Courage and a true spirit, on laudable occasions, have ever been the characteristics of the British nation; — but this false glory, — this *trop vif*, this precipitate rashness on every trifling provocation, is not of our own growth, nor at all natural to us; — and I am therefore tempted to believe has rather been imported, among some other bad customs, by our travell'd youth from France, where, if it were not for the severe laws against duelling, and the strictness with which they are put in execution, their grand monarque in a little time, might have cause to say with Busiris in the Tragedy,

Like

‘ Like death, a solitary king I reign,
 ‘ O’er silent subjects, and a desert
 ‘ plain.’

But to be more serious ; — It behoves every married man, above all, to use his utmost endeavours for the correcting this dangerous propensity ; if no consideration of himself is sufficient to enable him to do it, he ought to remember that neither his life nor his fortune are altogether his own, and that his wife, and the children he either has or may have by her, have a right to share in all the benefits of both ; and that he cannot do any thing which may happen to prove an injury to himself without being guilty of an injustice to them. — I am fully perswaded within myself, that if reflections of this kind are properly indulg’d, they will never fail of having their due weight with a man of honour, and who has any natural tenderness for his family or regard for his own reputation in the world, — so shall make no mention of what is enjoin’d by religion or morality in this point.





S E C T. VI.

The great weakness of a Husband in discovering any uneasiness at the civilities his Wife may treat others with in his presence.

THE wisest of men tells us that there is a time for every thing ; — it is doubtless the season and the circumstance that gives a sanction to what we do ; — the very same behaviour, which on some occasions is highly agreeable, shall on others be offensive ; — this is evident in almost all the particulars of our conduct, but more especially so in the amorous intercourse between man and woman.

A lover, while in his days of courtship, lives in a continual suspense, — his passion makes him diffident of his own merit, and fearful of every one's else : — believing his mistress worthy of universal admiration, he takes all who approach her for his rivals, and the least kind or even civil look she bestows on any of them inflames him with jealousy. — He complains of her cruelty, — is sometimes sullen and discontented, —
some-

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sometimes raves, — reproaches, — vows never to see her more, and flies from her presence in a rage; — then returns, — confesses his faults, and sues to be forgiven. — All this is far from displeasing her; — on the contrary, she imputes whatever extravagancies he is guilty of to the excess of that passion he has for her; and does not seldom contrive some occasion for proving it this way, — taking for a maxim these words of Mr. Dryden :

- ‘ Distrust in lovers is too warm a sun ;
- ‘ But yet ’tis night in love when that
- ‘ is gone.’

These little fooleries may be call’d so many different scenes in the play of Love, and are pretty enough in their representation; but when marriage has let down the curtain, the actors have done their parts and appear themselves.

Whatever grounds a man may have to justify his apprehensions before marriage, he can have none after being in possession of the beloved object; — she has renounced all mankind for his sake, — and those doubts which testified his passion while in a state of uncertainty, are, when he becomes a husband, indications of a base distrust, than which he cannot sure put a

greater affront upon a woman conscious of her innocence and integrity.

The laws of wedlock do not so far chain up the understanding, or the will of a wife, as to restrain her from seeing and acknowledging merit wherever she finds it; — from being pleas'd with conversation which either improves or exhilarates her mind; — or from behaving with decency and politeness, even to such who may have little else to recommend them than the rank they hold in the world.

A woman, especially if known to have any share of spirit or vivacity, must needs make a very odd figure, and occasion strange speculations among her acquaintance, who in the midst of company should sit with her lips clos'd, and her eyes cast down upon the ground, as if afraid to speak, or even look on any other than her husband; — yet that there are men unreasonable enough to expect this, I could bring many instances; — I shall, however, content myself with one, the truth of which I can aver, as I was both an eye and an ear witness of it.

A near kinswoman of mine, who never had either her virtue or prudence call'd in question, was married to a man of this
unhappy

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unhappy way of thinking. — I was at their house one day when there was a great deal of company; among whom was a gentleman of no great depth of understanding, indeed, but perfectly good-humour'd and quite inoffensive in his morals; — he had that silly custom which many people have, when they are earnest in discourse, of laying hold of whoever is in their reach: — this person was telling what he thought a very merry story, and, in the eagerness of his repetition, clapp'd his hand two or three times upon my cousin's arm, who unluckily was placed in the next chair to him; — she laugh'd, as others did, at the recital he was making, but took no notice of his action, nor I believe any one else, except her husband, who suddenly started from his seat, bent his brows, bit his lips, walk'd backwards and forwards in a disorder'd motion, spoke to no one, nor gave any answer to those who spoke to him.

Every body was surpriz'd at so strange an alteration in his humour; and none being able to guess at the occasion, knew not but themselves, by some inadvertent word or action, might have affronted him; all of them, except myself, rose up and took their leaves.

The moment they were gone my cousin, with a great deal of complaisance and tenderness, approach'd her husband, and ask'd if he was not well ; to which he churlishly replied, — ' Yes, I am well enough in health.' — ' What then, demanded she, can have induced you to act in the manner you have done? — You have frightened all our friends away.' — ' I suppose, cry'd he, in an angry tone, — no one of them are unable to account for what you seem so ignorant of, nor will wonder at a husband's resentment when he sees his wife behave in a fashion so unbecoming of her character.'

' Bless me! said she, is it I that have put you into this humour?' — ' No one else could have had the power to do it, answer'd he. — Did you think me blind enough not to see, or stupid enough not to resent the easy manner in which you suffer'd that coxcomb to handle your arm all the time he was telling his ridiculous story?'

' What would you have had me do?' demanded she. — ' The least you could have done, return'd he, was to have snatch'd away your arm, — rose from your seat, and remov'd to another part
of

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‘ of the room.’ — ‘ And so made myself
‘ the jest of the whole company, replied
‘ she. — Was I to behave as if the man
‘ was going to eat me?’

‘ Such fellows as *****’, said the husband, are worse than wolves or cannibals; those monsters but prey upon your flesh, but the tame monsters in human shape devour your reputation.’

Perceiving, by my cousin’s countenance, that some emotions were rising in her mind which might make the dispute between them grow too warm, I thought it high time to interpose; — I reminded him, that among the number of his acquaintance it was almost impossible but he must find several who behav’d in the same odd way with Mr. *****; that I dare answer that gentleman had no design upon my cousin; and that had any other person sat as near him as she did, they would have been treated in just the same manner.

I added, by way of proving the truth of what I said, that I frequently visited a certain great lady, with whom, indeed, I was at that time very conversant, who I never found about to relate any thing she thought of consequence, but I was glad

to get as far as I could from the reach of her fingers, or I should have had my arms pinch'd quite sore.

He suffer'd me to go on for a good while, without offering to interrupt me, or making any answer to what I said; but at last seeming to be convinced by it, own'd he had been in the wrong, and ask'd his wife pardon, which she, who was certainly one of the best natur'd women in the world; readily granted; — and I had the satisfaction of leaving them perfectly reconciled for this time.

But alas! — he either not endeavour'd, or was unable to subdue this unquiet disposition in himself; — she afterwards complain'd to me, that they never were together in company without his finding some pretence to quarrel with her, on what had pass'd, as soon as they were alone.

There cannot be a greater folly, either in man or woman, than indulging this propensity; because by persevering in what was at first no more than a humour, may grow in time into a passion, and the most bitter and pernicious of all passions, — as an author, whom I have very often quoted on other occasions, tells us on this,

For

‘ For doubts and fears to jealousy
 ‘ will turn,
 ‘ The hottest hell in which a heart
 ‘ can burn.’

Men, for the most part, lay the blame of their uneasiness in this point on the extraordinary love they have for their wives. — This may possibly be sometimes the case indeed, — but I am afraid extremely seldom; — for I have known husbands who could not bear the least innocent freedom in a wife, yet have themselves, at the same time, been passionately attach’d to the charms of some other woman.

Here, perhaps, I may be ask’d the question, — How can a man be jealous of one he does not love? — To which I answer, — That men have their vanities as well as women, and can as little endure that any other person should be put in competition with themselves. — This frequently happens between a lover and the woman he addresses for marriage; but when that indissoluble knot is tied, there is then a jealousy of honour; as the character of the husband suffers, tho’ very unjustly, in the opinion of the world, by any ill conduct of his wife.

But

But as to the point I am speaking of; — the ill-humour of a husband on his wife's behaving in company with a vivacity which has nothing in it of design, I believe that if we search into the true origin of his discontent, we shall find it more often proceed from pride than love.

Be that as it may, however, — a husband cannot give a greater indication of his weakness than in discovering any disturb'd emotions on seeing his wife treated with those unmeaning little freedoms, common between persons who are intimate, and which, one would think, he needs no other proof of their innocence than being taken before his face.

Methinks he should consider, that on the reputation of a wife's virtue depends the honour of him who is her husband; — and that in betraying the least distrust of her conduct, he exposes himself as well as her to the contempt and censure of the world: — people must either believe or not believe that there are some grounds for his suspicions, and which ever of these two opinions prevail, it must infallibly diminish that respect which every man of sense would wish to preserve. — Those
who

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who are inclin'd to think favourably, and can find nothing blameable in the behaviour of the wife, will not forbear ridiculing the folly and stupidity of the husband; and those who are ready to judge the worst, as too many such there are, will not fail to blazon and magnify her suppos'd transgression, and so they both fall into disgrace.

Besides, — as a woman has no defence against the reproaches of a husband of this distrustful nature but secluding herself from all society, which there are very few women will do, nor is it reasonable to expect that any one should do, it is not impossible but that her inclinations may take a different turn, and she may in reality run into excesses worse than his utmost apprehensions had suggested.

But to put these greater, and more suppositious evils out of the question; — frequent bruises with a woman whom his chief happiness consists in living well with, and the disturbance which the distraction between them certainly create in the whole family, ought, if there were nothing more to be dreaded, to make a man correct, or at least conceal, a disposition so pernicious to the peace of all about him.

SECT.



S E C T. VII.

Petulancy in a Husband, how disagreeable to a Wife, and troublesome to the whole Family.

ALL the good qualities a mind can be possess'd of, without a certain softness and complacency of manners, will not be sufficient to render a wife compleatly happy, and give marriage those doceurs which ought to be found in that state, and are expected by the parties who agree to unite themselves in those sacred bonds.

There are, doubtless, many husbands who are guilty of no vices, — provide well for their families, — take great care of what is call'd the main chance; — that is, owing nothing to any body, and laying up, according to their circumstances, for their posterity: — these pass in the eyes of the world for most excellent husbands, and indeed are such, if we go no farther than the common acceptation of the phrase; — yet still there may be a secret something in the composition of such a man, which tho' not discoverable to any but

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but his wife and family, may, with them, destroy all the merit of his other virtues.

There are various sorts of humours which may produce this bad effect; but what I am now about to speak of is petulance; — that is, — finding fault with every trifle that offends them, and never seeming pleas'd when they can find nothing to offend them; — a kind of waspish disposition, which takes delight in stinging without reaping any benefit by the venom they leave behind.

I have heard a man of this cast cry out, when a mug of small-beer has been brought to table, — pish, — why was the beer drawn in this mug? tho' perhaps if it had been presented to him in any other vessel he would have said just the same thing; the most minute circumstance serves him for matter of cavil, and it is altogether impossible to know how to please him, because he knows it not himself.

Such a man as this, on every little ailment, tho' it be no more than a corn on his toe, or a whitlœ on his finger, expects to be humour'd, indulg'd, and waited on with the utmost diligence, yet never appears satisfied either with what is done or left undone. — If his wife or servant brings

brings him any thing to take by way of refreshment, he pushes it back with some such rebuff as this, — ‘ Phoo, — do not plague me, — I hate to be teaz’d, — when I want any thing I can call for it.’ — Yet, if they do not offer it, complains piteously of being neglected, and the little care is taken of him.

If his wife at any time approaches him with words or gestures of endearment, he turns away and cries, — ‘ Prithee none of this foolery, — I have something else to think upon.’ — If she sits silent, he peevishly demands, — ‘ What have you lost your tongue, or do you think me not worthy of being spoke to?’ — If she questions him on any affair of moment which may be then depending, his reply is, — ‘ What is that to you?’ — If she forbears to intermeddle, he accuses her of indolence, and tells her she has not sense enough to think seriously on any thing.

A woman of a low education, and who has as little softness as himself, it is likely will return his behaviour in kind, and afterwards reflect no further on it; but one who has the least share of delicacy in her nature can never be happy in a man who treats her in this manner; nor will

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all the love a wife can possibly be possess'd of be sufficient to make her absolve him for it in her mind, tho' her pride or her prudence may perhaps enable her to affect regarding it with a shew of indifference.

But they will tell you that this error, as well as some others which I have already, or shall hereafter mention, is merely constitutional, and as much owing to nature as crookedness, a wry mouth, a great nose, or any other blemish on the person, — therefore not to be avoided, nor the man guilty of it to be condemn'd.

But supposing this position to be true, — reason and resolution may greatly help to remedy the defects of the mind, as art has found means to shadow over and conceal, in a great measure, those of the body.

But to do this requires somewhat more of a deep reflection than most men will be at the pains of making, — business or pleasure engrosses their minds, — they cannot endure the severe test of a self-examination; — if they begin so good a work they immediately quit it, and thereby remain entire strangers to what is but too obvious to every one else.

Monfieur

Monſieur l'Abbe d'Eſpernon, a very learned and eminent French author, in his elaborate treatiſe on the paſſions of the human mind, has a paſſage which I have taken the liberty to tranſlate, as I think it may be an admonition of general utility, if well attended to; — it is this:

‘ Curioſity is one of the moſt predominant and moſt laſting paſſions of the human mind; — it begins even in the dawn of life, and ceases not its operations till the eve is well nigh ſpent, and the night of death lulls aſleep every buſy faculty; — but methinks nothing is more ſtrange than that we ſhould lay out our whole enquiries on things which have no immediate relation to us, and totally neglect that which moſt nearly concerns our happineſs, — the knowledge of ourſelves: — we are anxious to find out the motives which influence our neighbour's actions, yet are ſeldom able to aſſign the true reaſons of our own, nor will take the pains to aſk our hearts the queſtion.’

Towards the cloſe of his diſcourſe upon the ſubject of curioſity, he grows more warm, and ſays thus:

‘ Of

‘ Of what advantage is philosophy? —
 ‘ of what use all the learning of the
 ‘ schools, while our ignorance of those
 ‘ propensities which nature has implant-
 ‘ ed in our minds renders us incapable
 ‘ either of improving the good, or of
 ‘ correcting the bad?’

It is certainly a great pity when a man of merit shall forfeit all the esteem he might have in the world, by giving way to some unaccountable caparice, which if he once could be brought to see in himself, he would be asham’d of, and labour with all his might to get the better of an enemy so dangerous to his character.

But in the case I am at present speaking of, a husband seems to stand in need of taking very little trouble to convince himself of his error; — the discontented faces of his wife, his children, and his servants, after he has been treating them in a petulant and peevish manner, are so many mirrors to remind him of the occasion.

But what surprises me the most is, to find that there are some men who are incapable of doing an ill-natur’d action, yet are scarce ever heard to speak a good-natur’d word: — deeds, it must be confess’d,

fess'd, are infinitely preferable to professions; yet it is still a very great fault to cloath a virtue in all the colours and appearances of its opposite vice.

Indeed I am strongly inclin'd to believe, that all the good we see done by persons whose manners are so perfectly contradictory to their actions, is not owing to any humane or tender dispositions of the heart, or that they take any pleasure in them; but that they are intirely influenced, and as it were, even in spite of themselves, by the principles either of religion or morality.

I remember to have formerly read a passage in Mr. Brome's works, which exactly tallies with the character of such men; the lines are these,

- That good they chuse, — that evil
 • they eschew,
- Is not to nature, but to precept due;
- The tutor stamps the mind with pious
 • dread
- Of hell, and human laws; — this
 • early spread
- Thro' childhood, in maturity pre-
 • vails,
- Where innate truth and love of vir-
 • tue fails.

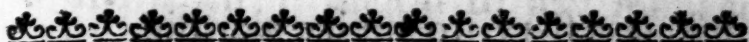
As the world is at present manag'd, these sower honest men are doubtless greatly to be valued, — whether behind the compter, — in Exchange-Alley among the brokers, — in all public offices, — employments and posts of trust and confidence, and even among ministers of state. — Such a person, I say, in his public capacity and his dealings between man and man, always will, and ought to be rever'd; but in private life, especially in marriage, much more is to be expected.

In chearfulness, and an open unreserv'd behaviour consists domestic happiness. — What welcome can a wife afford a husband, who she is certain will bring home nothing with him but frowns? — Will she not rather wish he should be continually abroad, and behold his return with regret? — Nay, if she is not endued with an uncommon share of patience and discretion, will not the little satisfaction she can enjoy in his society, make her own house hateful to her, and drive her to seek something more agreeable elsewhere? — and then, — who can answer for the consequences, — will not a total neglect of her family be the least of ills a husband has to fear?

But

But I think I have now sufficiently expatiated upon this subject, and shall therefore add no more, than that I would fain perswade every husband, who has any thing of this moroseness or petulancy in his composition, to dissemble it as much as possible in the presence of his wife ; and to believe, that how strongly soever I may have pointed the mischiefs attending a contrary behaviour, they cannot be worse than what has sometimes happen'd, and which he has just reason to apprehend may fall to his own lot.





S E C T. VIII.

The great mistake of a Husband who complains that his Wife is too religious.

I Shall introduce what I have to say on this head in the words of a late learned author, who, tho' not a churchman, speaks thus of religion :

‘ Religion, says he, is the sole barrier
‘ against vice, — the great basis on which
‘ all our good actions, and even thoughts
‘ depends ; — without it all the resolutions
‘ which human prudence and imaginary
‘ honour enable us to form fall to the
‘ ground ; — it is the bulwark of weak
‘ virtue, and the only certain refuge from
‘ the temptations of the world, and our
‘ own corrupt inclinations.’

But tho' nothing can be more just than
this definition, and allow'd to be so by
every one who does not live in an open
and avow'd contempt of the principles of
religion as well as the form of it, yet I
have known several men who have been
very much dissatisfied with their wives for
I devoting

devoting themselves, more than they may think necessary, to divine worship.

I think all the pretence a husband can make for complaining of his wife on this account is, that by going so frequently to church the family affairs are neglected. — I will not say, indeed, but that there are some instances which justify this accusation, especially among the followers of our new apostates and field-preachers ; — but then they are only the lowest and illiterate part of them ; — people of any understanding will always know, that to fulfil with diligence and integrity the duties of their station is a sacrifice no less acceptable to Heaven than prayer.

A man, however, who happens to have a zealot for his wife, should be very cautious how he attempts to turn the current of her passion ; — weak minds are always in extremes ; — and if he once brings her to believe that all the pains she has taken are in vain, and that Heaven takes no cognizance of her works of supererrogation, she may, 'tis more than barely probable, look upon all duties of religion as equally unnecessary, — abandon herself to every thing her lawless inclination may suggest, and from an enthusiast become a libertine ; — and

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— and then I appeal to any husband, which of these two characters he will think most dangerous, either to his interest or his honour.

In fine, a man will always find it a much less misfortune to have a wife who has too much religion, than to be yoked to one who has none at all; because religion, of what sect or denomination soever, by its precepts allures to virtue and deters from vice.

But what can be said in the vindication of a man, who having nothing wherewith to reproach his wife except her piety, is continually making both her and himself uneasy on that score? — I am at this time particularly acquainted with a couple, who might be the happiest people in the world if it were not for the difference of their sentiments in matters of faith: — he is a man of great morality, but has but very little sense of religion; — she has the most elevated notions of it: — he at some times laughs at her weakness, as he terminates it: — at others endeavours more seriously to reform, or rather to pervert her judgment; but she will not suffer herself to be persuaded to omit any part of those duties which Heaven requires from all its creatures, tho' at the same

time she neglects nothing that compleats the character of a good wife and the mistress of a family.

Perceiving that all the arguments in her power to urge in favour of reveal'd religion, drew from him only the common place modish sarcasms of the age, she has for a long time avoided, as much as possible, all discourses with him upon the subject; but he takes all opportunities of returning to it, not contented that she ceases to find fault with his notions, when he finds she perseveres in her own, which she still strictly does, and I believe will always continue to do to the end of her life.

She was one evening in her closet, when he happen'd to come home sooner than she expected, or than was his usual custom, and on being told where she was, ran hastily up stairs and surpriz'd her writing at her escrutore.

His entrance was too sudden for her to conceal what she was about; — and he snatching the paper from her, found it contain'd the following lines:

' Now, —

' Now, — now relax'd from business
 ' and from care,
 ' Let my joy'd soul to meet its God
 ' prepare !
 ' In contemplation wrapt, and heavenly
 ' thought,
 ' Set all the pleasures of this world at
 ' nought !
 ' Commune with angels ! — join my
 ' humble lays,
 ' To chant, with them, the great Je-
 ' hovah's praise !
 ' To glorify that sacred name by whom
 ' Alone the hopes of our redemption
 ' come !
 ' To bless that holy spirit which in-
 ' spires
 ' All our chaste wishes, — all our hal-
 ' low'd fires !
 ' T' adore the wonders of the Trinity,
 ' Th' almighty Three in one, — and
 ' one in Three !
 ' O power supreme ! — O goodness
 ' infinite !
 ' Fountain of bliss, — source of all
 ' true delight !
 ' Still keep my heart devoted to thy
 ' love,
 ' Nor let my vain imaginations rove
 ' To aught beneath thyself.

‘ How unhappy, said he, as soon as he
 ‘ had read this, is the man whose wife
 ‘ is a biggot; — I came home thus early
 ‘ on purpose to play a game at Piquet
 ‘ with you, — but I find you are soar’d
 ‘ above my reach, — quite gone beyond
 ‘ the clouds.’ — ‘ I am ready to descend,
 ‘ my dear, answer’d she with a smile,
 ‘ whenever the duties of my station here
 ‘ on earth require it : — the precepts of
 ‘ religion command me not only to obey,
 ‘ but also to oblige my husband in all
 ‘ lawful things; — so if you please we
 ‘ will go down and call for cards.’ —
 ‘ No, no, cried he, sullenly, I shall seek
 ‘ better company.’ — With these words he
 flung out of the room, went out, and
 return’d not till the night was well
 nigh spent.

She follow’d him down stairs, and even
 quite to the door of the house, entreating
 him to stay, — but in vain, which so much
 disconcerted her, that, as she afterwards
 inform’d me, she pass’d the whole night in
 tears, instead of being able to finish her
 poetical ejaculation.

These things frequently happen’d be-
 tween them, and tho’ neither of them has
 any

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any reason to complain of the other, but on the account I have been relating, that of itself is sufficient to embitter all the satisfaction of both their lives.

I once knew another husband who used his wife extremely ill merely because he found she believed and depended on what he call'd priestcraft. — He highly valued himself on the character of a Freethinker, yet was not one so much from principle as from the vanity of being rank'd in the class of some great wits who he was told were so. — He laugh'd at all the mysteries of religion, — made a jest of providence, eternal judgment, and futurity; yet if seiz'd with any indisposition, tho' never so slight, presently imagin'd he should die, and trembled at the thought: — in fine, he was one of those whom the poet says,

' Religion's bright authority they dare,
' And yet are slaves to superstitious
' fear.'

Here I cannot resist the temptation of relating a little incident, which, though somewhat foreign to my present purpose, may serve as a matter of merriment to part of my readers, and make others

blush with conscious shame at seeing their own weakness expos'd in the character of another.

The person I am speaking of happen'd to keep his chamber on some trifling ailment; — his wife, who was never permitted to leave him on these occasions, was sitting opposite to him on the other side of the chimney, when on a sudden she cry'd out, — ' Bless me! what
' strange things one sometimes sees in the
' fire!' — ' What do you see, demanded
' he?' — ' Just in the middle there,' reply'd she, pointing to the bars of the grate, ' there is the very figure of a
' clergyman in his habit, and a book
' open in his hand, and after him something like a coffin and a crowd of people
' following.' — The husband's countenance chang'd at these words. — ' This
' is a plain omen of my death, said he,
' I just now feel a violent pain in my
' side, — the disorder has seiz'd upon
' the pleura, — I shall not live an hour if
' I am not blooded; — send this instant
' for a surgeon.'

The wife on this started up and was going to do as he desir'd; but before she had reach'd the door, — ' No, resum'd
' he

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‘ he, I will first have the advice of a
‘ physician ; let John go directly to Dr.
‘ Pratewell, and as he comes back call
‘ upon Mr. Probe, the surgeon ; and
‘ Bolus the apothecary ; — let them all
‘ make haste, or I shall not live to re-
‘ ceive their assistance.’

These orders were accompany’d with the most terrible groans ; so strongly did imagination work upon him on the figures his wife had fancied she saw in the fire, that he really thought himself in the pangs of death. — The description Mr. Lee gives of Men of this turn I think is extremely natural, — his words are these :

‘ When the sun sets, shadows, that
‘ shew’d at noon
‘ But small, appear most long and ter-
‘ rible :
‘ So when we think fate hovers o’er
‘ our heads,
‘ Our apprehensions shoot beyond all
‘ bounds.
‘ Owls, Ravens, Crickets, seem the
‘ watch of death ;
‘ Nature’s worst vermin scare her god-
‘ like sons :
‘ Echoes, on the very leavings of a
‘ voice,

• Grow babbling ghosts, and call us to
 • our graves.
 • Each mole-hill thought swells to a
 • huge Olympus,
 • While the fantastic dreamers heave
 • and puff,
 • And sweat with an imagination's
 • weight.'

The persons whom this superstitious gentleman had sent for being come, they fail'd not to magnify every symptom of the disorder he complain'd of; and having once got him under their hands, it is not to be doubted but that he pass'd through all the operations of their art.

Bleeding, sweating, emetics, cathartics, and anodynes, at last brought him indeed almost to the point he so much dreaded; — and now, behold! how this hero of scepticism, in all things relating to religion, gave an implicit belief to the most idle tale that ever was invented.

The nurse who attended him, hearing him groan one night in a most piteous manner, drew near to his bed-side and surpris'd him with these words: — 'Ah, sir, said she, if you would be perswaded
 • to leave off the doctors and apotheca-
 • ries

‘swer’d she; for I know the woman
 ‘that sets the chairs and cleans out the
 ‘chapel in Warwick-street; — and if
 ‘you please I will go to-morrow morn-
 ‘ing and endeavour to bring you some
 ‘of it.’

Whether the good woman, seeing how much her master was harrafs’d with phyfic, invented this story merely to make him desist taking any more, or whether she had in reality been told such a thing, I will not take upon me to determine, nor would the knowledge be of any consequence; — I shall only say, that the strong faith he had in the water, join’d to the nourishing things she took care to give him, in a short time repair’d those breaches in his constitution which had been made by the operations he had sustain’d.

Having been cured by this pretended miracle, most people will naturally suppose that he afterwards became as great a believer as he hitherto had been an infidel; but it was no such matter with him. — His wife, tho’ she had too much sense to impute his recovery to the means prescrib’d by the nurse, yet she took this opportunity to attempt making a convert of
 of

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of him ; but he treated all her arguments with derision, and used her very ill on her endeavouring to persuade him to be what he resolved never to be ; — and, indeed, I have observ'd that, generally speaking, those who call themselves Freethinkers, though they boast being above giving credit to any of the mysteries of salvation, readily give faith to those which one would think below the dignity of mankind to listen to.

But to return to my subject, from which I must confess all this has been but a digression, — I would fain have every husband reflect what he will get by endeavouring to pervert the principles of his wife in point of religion : — if he fails, he undoubtedly loses her affection ; for it is impossible she can long retain any for a man who would make her renounce those precepts on which her eternal happiness depends : — and if he should succeed in the pernicious attempt, there is a strong probability that he would find verified the words of Cassani, an Italian Jesuit, in his famous treatise on the human mind : — ‘ A woman, says that
‘ reverend and learned author, who has
‘ no sense of religion, is a weather-cock,
‘ liable to be turn'd aside with every
‘ breath

‘breath of temptation that blows upon
‘her.’

It would be easy for me to produce numberless examples in justification of this assertion; but it would be altogether superfluous, and I should only waste my own and reader’s time in making any repetitions of what must have fallen under the observation of every one.

There needs no more than to consider nature, to know that when a person has once renounced any principle or opinion whatsoever, they are always more zealous in opposing than ever they were in defending it, in order to shew the world how much they are convinced that the alteration of their sentiments is right.

A passage which I have somewhere read just now occurs to my remembrance, and appears to me so extremely applicable to the occasion I am speaking of, that I cannot forbear inserting it:

‘Good is most bad, when chang’d
‘from what it was,
‘And our best things, when once corrupted,
‘worst.’

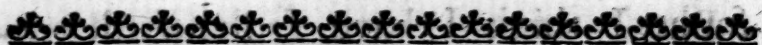
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But I think I have spoke sufficiently on this subject, and shall conclude with earnestly exhorting every married man to believe, that in perverting his wife from the duties of her religion, he will at the same time pervert her also from all the duties owing to himself.



SECT.



S E C T. IX.

Over Curiousness and Affectation in Dress, how ridiculous in any man, but much more so in one who is a Husband.

I Know of no one propensity which so much debases the character of a man as effeminacy, or that serves more to render him contemptible in the eyes of all persons of understanding.

This species of folly discovers itself in many shapes ; — it is to be found in the tone of the voice, and every attitude of the person guilty of it ; but I think it is in nothing more conspicuous than in an over-curiosity and affectation of a peculiarity in dress. — There are some people who, to acquire the reputation of a man of taste in this point, waste three parts in four of their time in consulting with their taylor, their perriwig-maker, and their milliner, and if they hit on any invention which happens to take the fancy of the town, and afterwards becomes a general fashion, and is call'd after their name, value themselves more upon it than if they had found

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found out the Longitude or the Philosopher's Stone.

If these things are inexcusable in women, who from their very infancy are taught to pride themselves in their beauty, and place their glory in attracting a number of admirers, what can be said in vindication of those men who act in the same manner, yet have had a quite different education, and ought to know that the least meritorious qualification of their sex is a handsome person?

It must certainly be a consummate share of innate vanity which can convert, as soon as he has thrown off his satchel, a slovenly school-boy into a beau, and make him study the rules of Foppery with more attention, perhaps, than ever he did the Classics.

But it is not the business of these pages to expatiate on these follies, how enormous soever they may be, of any persons while they continue in a single state; — my concern is solely for marriage, and my design to contribute all in my power to make those united in these sacred bands as happy as possible, — to which end I shall advance some positions which

which I flatter myself are not unworthy of a serious consideration.

In the first place, — I would have every man throw off the finikin the moment he becomes a husband, lest his wife should think herself authorised by his example to lavish her hours in the same ridiculous manner; — and then, — in what a wretched situation must the affairs of a family under two such heads be plunged!

In the next, I would endeavour to convince them, that there are very few women who truly love, and none who can esteem a man who is of this turn; — the robust, — the fierce, have, generally speaking, the most charms for that sex, as we may see by their so often making choice of gentlemen in the army for their husbands, in preference to those of any other avocation, though perhaps much more to their advantage.

Milton, in his description of Adam, makes him not curl his Hair; — indeed there were no looking-glasses at that time, but there were chrystal streams which might have supply'd that defect, and also beautiful plants and fruits which might have

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have added a more fresh vermillion to his cheeks; — but he disdain'd such arts, and in those manly graces which nature had bestow'd on him, approach'd the lovely partner sent him by heaven as the choicest gift of the creation.

That admirable poet, speaking of the first man, — then little beneath the angels in wisdom and purity, says thus :

- ‘ His large fair front, and eye sublime
‘ declar’d
- ‘ Absolute Rule; his hyacinthian locks
‘ Down from his parted forelock man-
‘ ly hung,
- ‘ Clust’ring, but not beneath his shoul-
‘ ders broad.’

This parent of mankind was doubtless endow'd with every thing to inspire love and reverence, and distinguish him for what he truly was, while in his state of innocence, the lord of the creation; and nothing, methinks, can be more absurd than to imagine that garments, which are only the livery of sin and shame, how much soever ornamented, can add any honour to the wearer.

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It may, perhaps, be thought that this is reasoning in somewhat a too serious manner on the subject, and I am very sensible will be ill relish'd by our beaux and belles: — I would not, however, have any one infer from what I have said, that I am recommending either fig-leaves or homespun russet for their apparel; — no, — a decent compliance with the mode of the country we live in ought to be observ'd; and it is also necessary that there should be a difference of habits according to the different ranks and conditions of the wearers; — I would only not have the love of dress carry'd to such an excess as to be erected into a kind of science, and too much take up the mind, especially of a husband, whom it will least of all become.

Besides, when a man after he is married discovers too great an attachment to dress and ornament, it indicates a fondness for his own dear person, which can never be agreeable to his wife. — But this is not the worst; — she may possibly take it into her head that he has some object in view whom he is so industrious to please; — and then, — who can answer, if she has any thing of the virago in her composition,

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position, but that his bottles of essence, his cold creams, and his Italian washes, may not be all thrown out of the window; — his well-spread bag and solitaire, with the fine tassels on his sword and hat, torn into pieces, and the whole beau demolish'd by her jealous fury.

I must confess that I have a spice of ill-nature in my composition, which would have made me well enough pleas'd to have been spectator of such a scene as this, had any one ever fallen in my way, either in real life, or represented on the stage, by Mr. Garrick, or some other of our comic poets. — But raillery apart; — for, indeed, the matter is of too serious a kind to be treated of in a ludicrous manner.

A woman, whether endow'd with a less or a greater degree of understanding, will be equally displeas'd with the behaviour of a man of this turn. — If the former, her vanity will make her imagine that the hours he passes at his looking-glass would be better employ'd in admiring her charms, and hate him for the little regard he pays to them. — If the latter, — she will reflect, that though his fortune should set him above following any

any pecuniary avocations, yet, besides philosophy, geography, and other sciences he has been taught in the schools, the public affairs of the nation, in which every man has a concern, should seem to him more worthy of his attention than the modes of dress and ornament.

In a word, — I may venture to pronounce, that a man who, after marriage, discovers an over-delicacy and sollicitude about his own person, and in particular is exact in this article of dress, any farther than what decency and the station of life he is in requires, will seldom, if ever, preserve the love and esteem of his wife and family, or be look'd upon as a man of solidity by the sober and sensible part of his acquaintance.

Those who are placed by fortune in a middle state of life, have their thoughts generally taken up with their several trades or other occupations: — it is persons of high rank and condition who are most liable to fall into this weakness; — and it is therefore for their use that this section is chiefly intended.

These gentlemen having always a liberal education, the advantage of the
best

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best books and conversation, and the examples of the illustrious dead; and probably of many living worthies in their own family, need, methinks, no more than to remember what steps they ought to take to support the dignity of their births.

I can only wish that persons endow'd with every qualification to be the shining ornaments of the age they live in, and leave behind them characters worthy the imitation of their posterity, would take the trouble to ask themselves these few short questions :

First, Whether the reputation of dressing well can come in any competition with that of acting well ?

Secondly, Whether it would not more redound to their honour to be the patron of men of letters, than the dupe of French taylors and barbers.

And Thirdly, Whether the Hours wasted at the toylet might not be better employ'd in the study of what is owing from him as a good subject to his prince, and patriot of the common-weal.

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These latter remonstrances may seem foreign to marriage, but in effect they are far from being so ; because a woman who has any understanding of her own will always revere a man who makes a right use of that share he is himself endow'd with.

End of the SECOND BOOK.

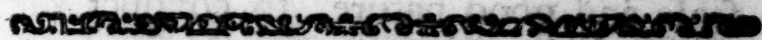


THE



T H E
HUSBAND.

B O O K III.



S E C T. I.

*Concerning the behaviour of a Husband
in regard of Children by a former
marriage, whether on the one side
or the other.*



Am so little a friend to second marriages, especially when there are children, either on the one side or the other, that I should not be sorry if there were no occasion for me to say any thing on this head; — but as these sort of conjunctions are so frequent, and have the authority both of divine and human laws, I might with very great justice be accus'd of prejudice

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and partiality if I omitted giving what advice is in my power, where I believe it will appear to be more necessary than in any other one circumstance in life.

When a husband, the moment he is made so, either becomes the father of another man's children; or, on the other hand, sets a woman in the place of a mother over those he may have had by a first wife, it requires a more than ordinary share of circumspection, as well as good sense and good nature, to conduct himself in such a manner as to give no room for dissatisfaction.

The children of a first marriage are apt to look with a discontented eye on this alteration in the family, and to submit with very great reluctance to any commands laid on them by a new-made parent; — nor will there ever be wanting evil-minded persons who will aggravate every little cause of complaint, whether real or imaginary.

If a wife does not humour the children of her husband in every thing they desire, be it ever so unreasonable, they presently begin to wimper, and cry, — It would not be so if their own dear mamma was alive, on the refusal of every request. —

On

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On every correction they receive for any fault they may have been guilty of, they run with streaming eyes and blubber'd cheeks, bewailing the hard usage they sustain, to as many as they can find an opportunity of speaking to ; — the name of step-mother carries in it so ungracious a sound to the ears of most people, that there are very few who do not readily give credit to all the idle tales are brought them to her prejudice ; — the husband, perhaps, is not the last who listens to the complaints of his children, and often times resents the behaviour of his wife towards them in such a manner as to occasion very great dissensions : — but if his love, his good sense, or his complaisance, keep him silent on that score, yet cannot she be easy on account of the bad character the station she has enter'd into has drawn upon her from others, — so that all the sweets of marriage will be embitter'd by it.

On the other hand, — if a man marries a woman who has any children by a former husband, there will be no less danger of a mutual dissatisfaction arising in a short time between them. — If he happens unluckily to have any thing of an over-delicacy in his composition, he will behold with an envious eye every en-

dearment she bestows on the little innocent pledges of her first affection; — he will impute the kindness she treats them with as an indication of her remaining tenderness for their father, — imagine that his memory is still too precious to her, and, in fine, grow jealous of a shade.

But though I am inclined to believe that this is a case which happens much less frequently than any other, yet that it sometimes does so is a truth I can aver with the greatest assurance. — I will not say it always proceeds from an excess of love; — no, it is more often owing to the pride and tenaciousness of a husband, as I have already observ'd. in treating on the article of jealousy. — But can any one be jealous of the dead? may some people ask: — it is, indeed, a little incongruous, yet, to my certain knowledge, there are men of this humour, odd as it may appear, and of the discontents which have risen in their families merely on this account, could produce several present instances, were it expedient for me to do so.

There are, however, many other circumstances, which being too obvious even to the most common observation

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stand in no need of my making any mention of in this work ; — I shall therefore only give a slight hint in regard of one particular, which I think is the most general, especially among those people whose lot is cast by fortune in a middle state of life.

When a man, by any losses or cross accidents in life, begins to find himself in the least straiten'd in his circumstances, or, thro' a narrowness of his own mind, takes it into his head to apprehend wants where none are likely to ensue, he is either way apt to grumble at those expences which necessarily attend the bringing up of children : — paternal fondness naturally makes all these things easy to most people ; but without that, whatever they do is done with repining and regret.

A man who marries a widow ought certainly to look on all her children as his own, for such they are by the firmest title of adoption ; and as he takes their father's place in bed, should think it his duty to do the same in every thing else which regards them ; and whoever he is that neglects so essential a point, cannot deserve the name either of a good husband or a good christian, nor has any just reason to hope the sincere attachment of

his wife, who will always think herself slighted in the persons of her children.

I must nevertheless acknowledge it as my opinion, that the little regard which we so often see paid, both by husbands and wives, to the offspring of each other by a former marriage, is very much owing to the folly and injustice of the world, who will scarce ever allow any merit of this kind either in a step-father or step-mother.

But where both parties happen to have children, the matter is still much worse; — the kindred of the deceas'd parents on each side are continually interfering, — prying into every little indulgence, or correction, received by either, and seldom fail of exhibiting the most terrible accusations of partiality, whether with or without a cause.

What miserable commotions, — what cruel factions do these incendiaries, by their too officious zeal for the interest of the remains of their deceas'd relations, frequently create in families! — The husband and wife are set at variance, — the children taught to envy and malign each other, — the servants divided into factions, — all business, — all œconomy neglected,

neglected, and every thing involved in discord and confusion.

Sorry I am that it is not in my power to give any admonitions which might possibly prevent so great a mischief; but the particulars which occasion it are too numberless and nameless to be either mention'd or expatiated upon in a work of this nature: — I would, indeed, persuade every husband and wife to act in this article as becomes their characters, and the love they bear to each other, because a consciousness of having fulfill'd their duty will be a consolation to themselves; — but much I fear, at the same time, that it will be the only recompence their virtue will receive.

Here may a husband, who finds himself in this perplex'd and unhappy situation, be tempted to demand, — To what end have I mention'd a subject wherein there is no redress? — But let him have a little patience, and I doubt not but to convince him, that tho' the evil cannot perhaps be totally remedy'd, either by his own or his wife's most prudent endeavours, yet the asperity of it may in a great measure be alleviated.

The methods I would advise a husband to take are these : — First, I would have the children, whether they are his own or his wife's, sent immediately after his marriage out of the house, — in order to be educated under persons proper to be employ'd in that trust ; but not with any of their kindred, from whom it is necessary, for the reasons aforesaid, to keep them as much at a distance as possible, till they arrive at an age which may defend them from giving credit to any idle insinuations to the prejudice of their own peace as well as that of their parents.

When these children happen to be on the husband's side, the wife will doubtless be so far from opposing their removal that she will rejoice at it. — If both of them were parents before they came together, she cannot, with any appearance of reason, resent his treating those who call her mother in the same fashion he does those of whom he is the natural father.

The greatest difficulty a husband will find is, that when having no children of his own he has married a woman who is a mother : — here he will stand in need of all his rhetoric to prevail on her to turn
from

from her presence those dear pledges of her first affection: — yet would I have him not despair, — the same motives which induced her to enter into a second engagement will, I believe, induce her also to give this proof of her complaisance for the present possessor of her heart, if he attempts to win her to it by those soft and endearing methods which few men are ignorant in the practice of, when it is their interest to exert themselves in that point.

When he has got the little innocents thus dispos'd on, it will behove him to do every thing in his power to keep their mother from repining at their banishment, or suspecting that it was want of affection either to her or them which had made him seem desirous of their departure; — he must not only go with her frequently to visit them, and be continually sending some pretty toy or other, suitable to their years and fancies, but must also double his caresses to herself, and, for a time at least, till she is somewhat wean'd, indulge her in all those diversions and pleasures she seems most inclined to take.

Indeed I know of no one circumstance in marriage half so delicate as this, nor which requires so much the circumspec-

tion and assiduity of a husband to manage well: — but the particulars of what will best become him to do are so numerous, and withal so various, that it is utterly impossible to prescribe any distinct rules for that purpose; I shall therefore only say in the general, that every man whose wife has children by a former husband should always take care to behave towards them with the greatest tenderness whilst in their infancy, and as they arrive nearer to maturity, with respect and complaisance.



SECT.



S E C T. II.

The unparallel'd weakness of a Husband who, to the prejudice, perhaps ruin, of his Wife and Family, suffers himself to be impts'd upon by those pretended Connoisseurs in Arts and Sciences who dignify themselves by the title of Virtuosi.

HOW greatly are mankind deceived by appearances! — When we see a man live in perfect concord with his wife, that they have every thing about them befitting the rank they hold in life, and are guilty of nothing which can call either of their characters in question, we presently pronounce them a very happy couple; — but, alas! how sad a mistake does this often prove in the end? — It is not sufficient that a man is endow'd by nature with no ill propensities, nor has imbib'd them either from example or education; — that he runs into no excesses, either as to wine, women, or gaming; — he may be a well-condition'd, a virtuous, and a good man, and yet be a very bad husband. — As

much a paradox as this may seem, it will be easily reconciled, on our giving ourselves the trouble of considering that there are some sort of follies which, if indulged, are no less pernicious to the interest of a family than the worst of vices.

Among the many and various inventions by which the thoughtless and undesigning part of mankind too often suffer themselves to be imposed upon by the more subtle and crafty, I know of none which, without appearing to be so, are of more ruinous consequences to families than those daily put in practice by a set of men, who, by the help of a few cant words, pass for connoisseurs in painting, sculpture, drawings, shells; and, in fine, in every curiosity both of art and nature.

These pretended virtuosi force themselves into all the companies they can, — sound the inclinations of every one they enter into conversation with, and when they find a gentleman discovers a taste for any particular art or science, are never unprepared with a snare to draw him in. — As for example :

If they find he is an admirer of pictures, they presently invite him to see a
curious

curious collection in the hands of some friend of theirs ; — he rejoices at the opportunity of feasting his eyes, and goes with them ; — there they meet, as if by accident, with some one of their own tribe, who tells them that several excellent pieces, all originals, are just imported from Italy, and that he can procure them a sight of them ; — the gentleman is again made one of the party, and thus they hurry him from one picture-broker's to another, till they have got into his confidence, and fully establish'd him in that goût to which he had a natural tendency, they carry him to an auction, where being themselves the principal proprietors, they have their puffers to bid high, and by this means the unwary gentleman is frequently drawn in to give, for what perhaps is not worth twenty shillings, double the number of pounds.

If he delights in medals and antique coins, they can produce him pieces struck several hundred years before the birth of our blessed Saviour. — If in drawings or sketches in crayons, they produce the figure of Deianira in her distraction, after having made her husband wear the evenom'd shirt given her by the Centaur ; — old Priam's palace before the sack of
Troy,

Troy; — and a thousand such like things, all said to be the work of Titian's own hand. — In a word, they can flatter his imagination with whatever it is set upon, provided they find his purse as open to their demands as his ears are to their impositions.

I have been credibly inform'd that a gentleman of no very large estate, but extremely fond of the marvelous, gave five hundred guineas for a feather, which some of these Virtuosi assur'd him had been dropt from the pinion of a Phoenix, as the bird of Paradise was taking her last flight to her aromatic nest.

Strange, and almost incredible, are the effects of this unhappy infatuation: — I once knew a person, who having no other fortune than what arose from a pretty lucrative employment he held under the government, laid out all the money he could save from the necessary expences of life in copper medals, and pieces of old coin, which he was made to believe were half as ancient as the creation, and had been found in digging up the foundation of some ruin'd castle, or the draining marshy grounds, and such like tales. — His wife beheld these purchases with the utmost regret, and often remon-

remonstrated to him the folly of wasting his substance in such baubles; but he always answer'd in these terms: — ' You are a fool, — these noble remains of antiquity will not only do me honour while I live, but also be a better provision for my family after my death than any I could otherwise have made.'

— The poor woman, however, proved the truest prophet; for on his decease these boasted curiosities being exhibited to sale were found of little more value than their weight, and three fine daughters, whom this deluded man had left behind him, instead of having the portions they expected, were all reduced to go to service.

One great misfortune of this propensity, and which often occasions the ill consequences attending it, is, that those people who are beguiled by it, imagine that while they are indulging their own inclinations, they are at the same time enriching themselves, and doing good to their posterity; — such a dust does it cast upon the eyes of reason that they can see nothing but through the false opticks of prejudiced opinion. — I am apt to think that the humorous poet had this very deception in view when he wrote these lines:

‘ Doubt-

- ‘ Doubtless the pleasure is as great,
- ‘ Of being cheated, as to cheat ;
- ‘ As lookers-on feel most delight,
- ‘ That least perceive a juggler’s flight ;
- ‘ And still the less they understand,
- ‘ The more they admire the flight of
- ‘ hand.’

I must acknowledge, that in the whole course of my observations I have not met with many things which afford me more matter for astonishment than to see men of the best understanding and shrewd judgment in other affairs, blindly give up their reason, and suffer themselves to be impos’d upon in the most gross manner by these rarity-mongers and dealers in pictures.

A certain late great person, who was allow’d to penetrate as deep into mankind as any one who is no more than man himself can do, became so much the dupe of this species of knavery, that he laid out several thousand pounds on pieces which pass’d upon him for the most choice works of Titian and Raphael ; but when afterwards examin’d by some who had either more skill or less interest to deceive him, were found to be bad copies
of

of very indifferent originals; — and, in fine, of no real value.

Painting is undoubtedly a very noble science, yet I can never be brought to believe that any picture, though it were even really drawn by the pencil of Apelles himself, can be intrinsically worth half those sums which, to my knowledge, have frequently been paid for the daubings of a certain dabbler in the art, who, by exposing his pieces for some time in the sun and wind, and rubbing the back side of the canvas with a pumice stone till it is almost as thin as a leaf, has given them the air of antiquity.

I should, however, rather laugh than be angry at these deceptions, if they were put in practice only on those who, among the rich and great, as some such I fear there are, have no bowels of commiseration for the distressed of their fellow creatures; — or on misers, whose hoarded money, which might otherwise lie rusting in their bags, would by this means be brought to circulate: — but when men of small fortunes and large families are thus drawn in, I cannot help thinking but that the persons guilty of such frauds are worse than common robbers,

robbers, and deserve at least an equal punishment.

But as I cannot be vain enough to imagine that any thing I am able to say will put a stop to artifices by which such numbers of men, too proud to beg and too lazy to work, are indebted for their sustenance, I shall add no more on the subject of their behaviour; nor should have enter'd on the particulars I have done, but in the view of warning those who may now be on the point of being seduced, to turn their backs in time, and shun the fatal infatuation.

These admonitions could not, I think, be presented to the public at a more seasonable time than this, as the wonders said to be found in the new-discover'd subterranean city of Herculaneum, and some other places lately mention'd by our news-writers, will undoubtedly furnish fresh temptations for the unwary and over curious.

I heartily wish that we do not shortly hear that the thumb of an Alcides in Parian marble, pretended to be procured with great expence and infinite application, does not become the purchase for
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some one or other, whose money might be laid out to much better purposes.

Persons of this unhappy turn of mind have not the power to stop in their career; — they cannot hear of a thing which has any appearance of the marvellous, without being impatient to become masters of it; and, if their fortunes would permit, would not be satisfied till they had as many rarities in their possession as Mr. Lascelles and some other authors report are in the Grand Duke of Tuscany's repository at Florence.

I think that among all those commodities which are call'd curiosities, there are none which more deservedly bear that name, and by which the purchaser is the least liable to be impos'd upon, as shells, — it being impossible to counterfeit those admirable productions of nature; — some of these are extremely beautiful, and while they delight the eye, afford the finest matter for contemplation, and it must be confess'd, are very proper ornaments for the cabinets of the great.

It is, however, the rich and opulent whom I would wish to see make bargains of this kind, — persons who may expect their posterity will retain these reliques in
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their families ; but as for those of moderate fortunes, whose wives and children must, in all probability, after their decease, be reduced to dispose of them, it is certainly the highest madness in them to lay out their money in things which, being of no other intrinsic value than what is given them by the fancy of the purchaser, will turn to very little account.

I am very sorry to observe there is so small a share of good-nature, compassion, or generosity at present in the world, that few people, when they find any thing is expos'd to sale thro' the necessities of the owner, will not bid the twentieth part of the price which perhaps they would readily enough give the whole of, were it in the hands of a common broker.

A wife therefore cannot, without the extremest regret, behold her husband lavish away his substance in toys which she knows must, some time or other, be parted with to very great loss ; and this reflection will be apt to make her burst into violent passions, or throw her into a gloomy discontent, either of which will infallibly render her incapable of discharging any of the duties of her station as otherwise she would do ; — all things will

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will go wrong in the house, and her husband of consequence be made very uneasy.

Much more might doubtless be said on so copious a subject, and will probably be expected from me; but this little treatise affords not room to dwell too long upon particulars, and I flatter myself that the few hints I have given will be sufficient remonstrances to those whom it most concerns, to be attentive to them.



SECT.



S E C T. III.

Gaming, — some part of the ill consequences attending that dangerous diversion, and how ill it becomes a married man in particular to indulge himself in it.

AN immoderate love of gaming is allow'd by every one to be so incorrigible a propensity, that it may seem altogether fruitless to offer any thing in opposition to it: — this I am as sensible of as any one can be; yet as I am certain there are many people drawn into the destructive amusement more by the example and persuasion of those they unhappily converse with, than by their own inclination, I think it my duty in this undertaking to give such necessary precautions as shall occur to me on the occasion.

According to my opinion, there are but two motives which can excite to gaming, neither of which, I should think, a man endow'd with any share of sense or honour would allow himself to encourage. — The first is avarice, — the most
base

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base and fordid passion of the soul, as it tends to the increasing our own substance by another's loss. — The second is passing away the time, — which is the very worst of frensies, tempting us to throw away the most precious thing on this side eternity, and what perhaps, in some moments before death, we would give much more than we were ever, or could be possess'd of, to retrieve, were it possible to be done.

For my part, I pity from my very soul those persons who I hear complain that time hangs heavy on their hands; — not only because it shews that they have a prodigious vacuum in their heads, but also, which is yet worse, that they are not desirous of having it fill'd up with any commendable ideas; — these seem to make no manner of use of the reason Heaven has endow'd them with; — all the hours not spent in sleeping, eating, drinking, or some diversion, are irksome to them; — they know not what to do with themselves, — they stalk about like things put in motion by mere machinery, and are led away by every thing that affords them the least prospect of giving a fillup to the spirits.

Gaming,

Gaming, however, I should think is the least proper amusement that can be for that purpose ; — the hopes of winning, the fears of losing, and the suspense between these two passions may indeed keep the mind awake : — but how is it kept so ? — Why, by a perpetual anxiety. — Unhappy certainly must that man be, whose spirits must either sink into a dead calm, or be rouz'd out of it by sensations of so uneasy a nature !

They will tell you that they play only to divert themselves ; — and doubtless there are many who sit down with no other view ; — but every looker-on at a gaming-table must be convinced, by the various attitudes of the parties engag'd, how much it is in the power, of the turn of a card, or the cast of a dye, to convert this miscall'd pleasure into a real and most painful sollicitude.

An anonymous, but very ingenious author, speaking of gaming, has a passage which struck me very much on the reading. — These are his words :

‘ Among many other little stories related to me when a boy, I remember to have heard one, says he, of a famous
‘ magician,

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‘ magician, who in revenge for an af-
‘ front offer’d to him by the inhabitants of
‘ some town or village, compell’d all the
‘ children of it to follow the sound of an
‘ enchanted pipe he play’d upon, till
‘ they came to the banks of a great lake,
‘ where the earth giving way under their
‘ feet, they fell in and were all drown’d.
‘ — This tale, continues he, tho’ calcu-
‘ lated merely to please persons of the
‘ age I then was, seems to me to have a
‘ perfect analogy with that immoderate
‘ love of gaming at present so predo-
‘ minant among all degrees of people :
‘ — men at first engage in it to please
‘ company, or trifle away an idle hour ;
‘ but soon become intoxicated with it,
‘ are unable to give over, but dance on
‘ to perdition after the music of a rattling
‘ dice-box.’

I shall not here expatiate on the rui-
nous consequences which frequently at-
tend the love of gaming, — its mis-
chiefs are too numerous, — too obvious,
— too much acknowledg’d, even by
those most infatuated by it, and too se-
verely felt by their families, to stand in
need of being represented.

But there is one consideration which,
without the help of any other to give it
L force,

force, should of itself, methinks, be sufficient to make every man who is married refrain from indulging any inclination to this fatal amusement; — I believe I shall be easily understood to mean the perpetual discontents and apprehensions a wife must necessarily be involv'd in.

The many lonely hours, sometimes whole nights, the wife of a gamester passes in his absence, might be sustain'd with chearfulness by a woman of prudence, if she knew that time was employ'd in any laudable affair, tending either to his own honour or the interest of his family; but when she is convinced it is wasted among bullies and sharpers, and cannot be certain but that a moment may deprive him of all he is master of in the world, what terrible alarms must she not sustain!

Whether he comes home a winner or a loser, her anxiety, her dread, is still the same; and one would think, exclusive of that fond affection which ought to fill the breast of every husband, no man of honour, common good-nature or humanity, could persevere in a thing which he knew must render the woman he had married so unhappy in her mind,
tho'

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tho' he should even be so lucky as not to ruin both himself and her in point of fortune.

As therefore there are but very few things so utterly inconsistent with the ends for which marriage was ordain'd as this dangerous amusement, if it were even on no other score than the domestic inquietudes it must of course create, it most nearly concerns every man, how greatly soever he may have been attach'd to it before, to put on a firm resolution of abandoning it for ever from the moment he becomes a husband.

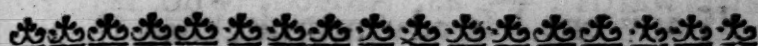
To assist him in doing this, he should consider that he is no longer entirely his own master; — that he has now taken to himself a second self, whom he is bound by all laws, both human and divine, to cherish and make as happy as he can, and that if he acts a contrary part towards her, it is quite as unnatural as if his right hand should quarrel with his left, or any one member of his body rise in opposition to the others.

I have now only to add a few words, by way of caution, to those persons who being wholly free from this vice before marriage, are liable to be drawn into it

afterwards ; — as, indeed, who is there that is not so, in an age when it is erected almost into a science, and look'd upon, by the modish part of the world, as the greatest unpoliteness not to have some learning in ?

I sincerely wish that it were in my power to persuade every man who is a husband to avoid, as much as possible, all society with those who love play ; and above all things, never to be prevail'd upon to go to a gaming-table ; — for though he may be drawn thither with no other design than to be a looker-on, it is a thousand against one but that he is tempted to bet, either on the one side or the other, which is much of the same consequence as if he play'd himself, and is, generally speaking, the first step taken by those who afterwards become profess'd gamblers.





S E C T. IV.

Some other things which it would be wisdom in a Husband to avoid, as being no less destructive to the peace and interest of his family than Gaming.

MEthinks there cannot be a greater weakness than to depend too much on chance; — or, in other words, to part with a certain good for an uncertain better. — Who would have imagined that the year 1720 should have been for ever memorable for the ruin of numberless families in its fatal æra? — yet how soon was it forgot? — many, even of the unhappy sufferers, threw their last remains into the next bubble that presented itself. There is at some times an epidemic infatuation which runs through the minds of men, and is incurable by all the efforts of reason; — I am sorry to observe that the same humour of quitting the substance for the shadow still prevails to such a degree among us, that there are few who do not madly dissipate in hunting after luck what ought to be kept close and improv'd by honest industry.

If any one less adventurous than themselves pretends to argue with them on this head, they presently reply, — That they love to put themselves in Fortune's way, — never considering the vast odds between the numbers of those whom that capricious and undistinguishing deity vouchsafes to lift up with her hand to opulence, and those she kicks down to misery and poverty with her heel.

I find a very humorous description of this imaginary power in the works of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, which as it may not have fallen into every one's hands, I think it not improper to transcribe :

- * Fortune, made up of toys and im-
* pudence ;
 - * Thou common jade, thou hast not
* common sense !
 - * But fond of business, insolently dares
 - * Pretend to rule and spoil the world's
* affairs !
 - * She flutt'ring up and down her fa-
* vour throws
 - * On the next met, not minding
* what she does,
 - * Nor why, nor whom, she helps
or injures, knows.
- * Some-

3. SECT. 4. *The* HUSBAND. 223

- ‘ Sometimes she smiles, then like a
‘ fury raves,
- ‘ And seldom loves, - but fools or
‘ knaves.
- ‘ Let her love whom she please, I scorn
‘ to woo her ;
- ‘ While she stays with me I’ll be civil
‘ to her :
- ‘ But if she offers once to move her
‘ wings,
- ‘ I’ll fling her back all her vain gew-
‘ gaw things,
- ‘ And, arm’d with virtue, will more
‘ glorious stand,
- ‘ Than if the bitch still bow’d at my
‘ command.
- ‘ I’ll marry honesty, tho’ ne’er so poor.,
- ‘ Rather than follow such a blind dull
‘ whore.’

Mr. Dryden, in a more serious manner, expresses the sense he had of the great weakness of those people who place any dependance upon chance or fortune ; — I shall only quote two lines of his, which may serve as an epitome of the whole of what he says upon the occasion :

- ‘ Fortune a goddess is to fools alone,
- ‘ The wise are always masters of their
‘ own.’

Putting largely into lotteries, — high betting at horse-races, — cock matches, being all of them things entirely dependent on chance, I look upon as a kind of gaming, and daily instances may convince every one, are of no less bad consequence to the adventurers.

To these I may also add, subscribing to new invented schemes, — which, tho' they may be calculated for public good, and in effect might prove so, if properly concerted before put in execution ; yet, through some mistake in the beginning, more often miscarry than succeed, and the projector himself, as well as those he had drawn in to become proprietors, are ruin'd by the methods they took to enrich themselves.

The extracting oil from Beechmast, as projected, and carry'd into execution, by the late very ingenious Mr. Aaron Hill about forty years ago, was certainly a fine discovery, and might have been of the greatest emolument to the public, as the oil being found on the proof not at all inferior in its flavour, and would retain its purity as long as that imported from Lucca, or any other part of Italy.

His

His Azilia, or Golden Islands, on the coast of Florida, was also far from being a visionary scheme, as many thought, or as many others, out of envy to the great abilities of that gentleman, maliciously suggested, set on foot with a view of imposing on the world, but was capable of being made greatly conducive to the honour of the nation and the interest of those concern'd in the undertaking, as is evident by General Oglethorp's expedition and the success of the colony of Georgia, which is the same tract of land call'd by Mr. Hill Azilia, not improperly so nam'd by him, as he intended and hoped it would be an asylum for the distress'd of all functions and capacities.

Yet, through some fatal mistake or mismanagement in the conduct, both these laudable schemes were render'd abortive, and the large sums which had been contributed towards promoting them entirely thrown away, as well as the high expectation of the projector himself frustrated.

If then such designs, which seem to have their foundation on reason, and afford the best and fairest prospect both of public and private advantage, are liable to become so destructive to the persons

concern'd in them, how great must be the infatuation to engage in others which have no such excuses, and are wholly under the guidance of chance or accident ?

As to lotteries in particular, I cannot help being of opinion, by the behaviour of those who venture largely in them, that even he who is so lucky to have his ticket come up a prize, pays very dearly for it by the suspense and anxiety he sustains during the whole time his fate is undetermin'd.

I may also add, that all those things, the event of which are wholly in the power of chance, occasion an almost total neglect of honest industry in the lower class of people, and are one great cause of that decay of hospitality and benevolence which ought to be the characteristic of the more rich and opulent.

I would not, however, entirely debar any gentleman, whose circumstances will admit of it, from doing as others do on this occasion, and sacrificing to the modish caprice of the times, — provided always it be no more than he can well spare from more commendable purposes, — give him no anxiety for a return, nor pain on finding it irrecoverably lost ; — in fine,
what

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what will neither break his own peace, nor lessen the benefits he might bestow on others.

But I can never forgive a husband, who having no more than a bare competency for the subsistence of himself, his wife and family, shall hazard the greatest part of it, or perhaps the whole, on the uncertain ocean of fortune.

Wise will that man be accounted, by all people of a right way of thinking, and happy will he find himself in the end, who attempts not to soar beyond the sphere which Heaven has placed him in, — pursues no delusive prospects, — grasps at no empty shadows, but endeavours to improve the little or the much he is master of, by an unwearied application, and diligent attention to whatever business or avocation he is best fitted for by nature or education.

Such a one will very seldom fail to thrive; but if even he should meet with any disappointments, by accidents unforeseen and impossible to guard against, the asperity of them will be greatly softened; first, by the consciousness that they have not fallen on him through any fault or mismanagement of his own; and, se-

condly, by that compassion which the world, bad as it is, is apt to feel for the distress of a good and prudent man: — whereas on the contrary, he who has undone himself by following chimeras, will be made doubly wretched by remorse and shame; — he will be unpitied by his friends, and laugh'd at by his enemies.

A certain most ingenious and eminent author tells us, that hope is no more than the day-dream of a sickly and restless imagination, — an idea excited merely by the fervour of an unsatisfied ambition; — and that the only way to preserve a calm and contented mind is never to raise our expectations to any thing beyond what we are at present in possession of; — by a steady adherence to this maxim, adds he, we may secure ourselves from all the plagues of suspense, — never deceive ourselves, nor be liable to be deceived by others.

Horace, who was undoubtedly a great philosopher as well as poet, is of the same opinion, as may be seen in many of his odes to Mæcenas, Varrus, and others of the court of Augustus Cæsar, particularly in one which seems to me excellently well translated by Mr. Dryden; — the following lines are part of it:

For

- ‘ For me, secure from fortune’s blows,
- ‘ Secure of what I cannot lose,
- ‘ In my small pinnace I can fail,
- ‘ Contemning all the blust’ring roar,
- ‘ And running with a merry gale,
- ‘ With friendly stars my safety seek,
- ‘ Within some little winding creek,
- ‘ And see the storm ashore.’

All that I have hitherto said upon this subject regards every man in general who has any concern for his real interest, his reputation in the world, or his innate peace of mind ; — but a husband is, above all others, in a particular manner oblig’d to observe those rules which not only my own reason have enabled me to present to him, but also which, upon examination, he will find have been laid down by the best authors, both ancient and modern.

A married man should always consider, that it is not so much his own will and pleasure he ought to have at heart, as the ease and satisfaction of the woman he has made his wife, both which must inevitably suffer by any mistake in his conduct.

Women, generally speaking, are more timid and less adventurous than men, and
when-

whenever their interest is concern'd, foresee dangers most remote. — What terrible apprehensions, therefore, must that wife continually labour under who finds her husband hazards his substance in the uncertain bottoms I have been describing?

Of how mild and sweet a disposition soever she may be, — she yet will murmur, — she will repine, — every fresh disappointment her husband meets with on this score will give her fresh occasion for complaint, — frequent disputes will naturally arise between them, which must of consequence destroy all that harmony which makes the sole felicity of a married state.

But I have now done with the subject; if this last argument is not sufficient to prevail on every husband, who either truly loves or pretends to love his wife, I know of nothing else that will have any effect.





S E C T. V.

The danger of Suretyship, and how utterly inconsistent with that affectionate caution which a Husband should always observe in regard of the interest of his Wife and Family.

I Am sensible that what I am now about to touch upon is a very nice and tender point; and I may possibly be accus'd by some persons as if guilty of attempting to root out all those few remains of friendship, compassion and good-nature, which, in spite of the depravity of the age, still continue among us. — I doubt not, however, but to be able to clear myself of so heavy a charge, and at the same time to make evident what I take upon me to assert.

By suretyship is meant, when one man obliges himself by bond, note, or promise, to pay the debts another has contracted, and thereby risques his own liberty to preserve, or to restore that of his friend. — This is certainly one of the most noble acts of humanity, and can
never

never be sufficiently acknowledged by the person who receives the benefit of it.

But alas! — how frequently do we see this generosity abus'd? — That man, therefore, who by this means relieves another from bondage, ought, which is very difficult, to be well assur'd that his circumstances are such as will enable him to discharge the obligation in a convenient time; and also, which is yet much more difficult, to be acquainted with the inmost recesses of his heart, and convinced that he has honour and justice enough to do it; — for if either ability or principle be wanting in the person deliver'd, his deliverer must suffer.

I must confess, indeed, that when a sincere and open-hearted man beholds his companion, his bosom friend, perhaps his near kinsman, expos'd to the insults of merciless rapacious creditors, and about being dragg'd by bailiffs to a loathsome prison, he cannot leave him in this condition without the extremest regret, and feeling in his mind great part of those distresses he forbears to relieve.

What then can be done in such a case, — it will undoubtedly be ask'd? — To which I reply, — that though I know no
one

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one circumstance in life more truly touching, yet I must still own it as my firm opinion, that a married man ought rather to sustain it than involve not only himself but his wife and family, than whom no friend or relation whatever can be half so dear, in those very misfortunes which he takes from the shoulders of another.

I would, nevertheless, be very far from counselling any thing in opposition to the laws of society or the dictates of humanity. — It is certainly the duty of every man who calls himself a Christian, or has any pretence even to morality, to exert himself as much as possible for the good of all his fellow-creatures, and more particularly so for those of his own blood, or to whom he is united by the yet more sacred ties of friendship; but then I would have him do it in such a manner as to be of no prejudice to the woman, who, as I have already urg'd on many other accounts, has a right to be an equal sharer with him in whatever is his property.

There are but few men who have not some expences which they might very well avoid; — these, therefore, should be retrench'd whenever the exigencies of a friend demand assistance, and also all superfluous elegancies in life to which they
may

have been accustom'd ; — many trifling indulgencies, which we think nothing of, if spared, will in time amount to a sum sufficient to be of service to the necessitous.

In paying down the money for the discharge of his friend, he knows the worst that can befall him is the loss of that sum, which, as I have just now said, he must endeavour to retrieve by a more than ordinary œconomy and frugality ; but in setting his name to a piece of parchment, which may possibly rise up in judgment against him, at a time when it is least convenient to get rid of the incumbrance, he may be expos'd to the greatest of misfortunes,

Our prisons, where I may venture to affirm as many are confin'd for the debts of other people as for their own, and the number of widows and orphans from opulency reduced to the extremest wretchedness, afford too obvious instances of the melancholy truth I alledge to stand in need of any arguments to prove it.

The condition of a person who enters into bail-bonds, may with propriety enough be compar'd to that of Damoiles, — the sword of destruction hangs over his head, suspended only by a single thread,

thread, and it is perhaps more than the odds of an hundred against one if it does not fall on him some time or other with the severest weight.

Now, methinks, I hear some people cry out in a great passion, — ‘ Why, — ‘ this is treating the greatest part of mankind as arrant knaves.’ — I fear, indeed, many are too much so to remember as they ought an obligation of this kind ; — but supposing them to be men of the most strict honour, integrity, and gratitude, the same accidents which reduced them to stand in need of this favour may happen again, and put it out of their power to return it ; or death, should no other casualty ensue, may frustrate their good intentions.

How much soever therefore a single man may be extoll’d for his generosity in risking his own liberty and fortune for redeeming those of another, I must always maintain that it is a very blameable compassion in one who is a husband, as it must of necessity involve his wife and family in the most terrible perplexity of mind, even if the disaster they apprehend should never fall upon them.

What

What a sad perversion of the sacred institution of marriage must it be, when the two persons united in those bands live together in a perpetual discord? — When the wife, ordain'd by Heaven to be the softner of her husband's cares and the crown of all his felicity, receives him to her arms with fullen discontent? — her eyes full of tears, — her mouth of complaints, — and her heart heaving with anguish instead of love; — When he, either not conscious of having given her any cause for this behaviour, or too proud to own it, reproaches her ill humour, as he terms it, and in the room of mutual endearments mutual altercations take up all their private hours?

Yet nothing is more certain than that this is, and ever must naturally be the case, when a woman finds her husband act in a manner so contrary to the interest of his family, as I think every one must allow he does in the article I am now speaking of.

I would therefore have every married man consider seriously on the many ill consequences, some of which must infallibly attend his taking upon himself those debts which another has contracted, and
I be-

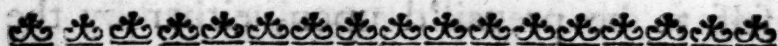
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I believe he will then never suffer himself to be prevail'd upon, either by the tender excitement of his own commiserating heart, or the persuasions of a necessitous friend, to squeeze the fatal wax, and sign the bail-bond.

As for any other relief which his circumstances may enable him to give to a worthy friend in distress, Heaven and humanity forbid I should advise him to withhold it.



SECT



S E C T. VI.

The great cruelty and injustice of a man who, after he is married, engages himself in an amorous correspondence of any sort with another woman.

I Am now about to mention a failure ; or, to speak more properly, a breach of conjugal duty, which I believe there are but few wives, if any, who do not look upon as the very worst and most unpardonable in a husband ; I mean that of falsifying his marriage vows, and living in a criminal conversation with another.

There are various degrees of this transgression, the most excuseable of which is casual fruition, as Milton terms it ; — that is, when a man, without any premeditated design, happens to be hurry'd by a sudden start of inclination to yield himself to the allurements of some fond wanton beauty ; — but tho' he may afterwards be shock'd at the reflection of what he has been guilty of, and perhaps love his wife with greater tenderness than before, yet if she is by any means made acquainted that he has been capable of wronging

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wronging her in this point, she may forgive, but scarce ever forget the indignity; — it will perpetually recoil upon her memory, and when he courts her to his embraces, make her apt to say with Statyra in the Tragedy :

- ‘ Oh ! I shall find Roxana in your
‘ arms,
- ‘ And taste her kisses left upon your
‘ lips ;
- ‘ Her curst embraces have defil’d your
‘ body :
- ‘ Nor shall I find the wonted sweetness
‘ there,
- ‘ But artificial scents, and aking o-
‘ dours.

And tho’ he should vouchsafe even to confess his fault, — protest the most unfeign’d contrition for it, and reply to her in the same words that Alexander did to his beloved queen :

- ‘ I know that subtle creature, in my
‘ riot,
- ‘ My reason gone, seduced me to her
‘ bed ;
- ‘ But when I woke I shook the circe off,
- ‘ Asham’d of what I had done.

Yet

Yet all this would not avail to restore to her breast the tranquility she enjoy'd before ; — she would be always in fear that what had once been, might be again ; — every little absence would give her pain ; — imagination is very strong in that sex, especially when inflam'd with the least spark of jealousy ; — whenever he staid abroad beyond the time in which she expected his return, she would presently torment her mind with the idea that some new and irresistible temptation had fallen in his way.

In fine, — an affair of this kind, if unhappily discover'd to the wife, puts an end to all the confidence she had in him ; — distrust usurps the place of security in her mind, — weakens her affection by degrees, and totally destroys all those unaffected tenderneesses which flow from a heart full of love, and perfectly at ease as to the sincerity of the beloved object.

How melancholy a thing is it, when a man, for the sake of a moment's fleeting pleasure, attended with remorse and shame, forfeits the affection of a chaste endearing wife, whom he ardently loves, and by whom he has been as ardently belov'd ; and that this has been sometimes the case

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case there are but too many instances to prove?

I hope therefore every husband, who has a due sense of what will make both his own and his wife's happiness, will never trust his virtue with himself: — let him avoid all masquerades, midnight balls and assemblies, and hold no conversation with those who delight in the company of idle women; those creatures having acquir'd, by practice, blandishments to which the modest part of the sex are strangers. — In a word, let him always keep in mind the advice which good old Acasto gives to his sons :

‘ Beware the dangerous beauty of the
‘ wanton.’

But if to have been surpriz'd, as it were, into an error afterwards repented of, and perhaps never repeated, may prove of such pernicious consequence to the felicity of marriage, what affection, what duty, what regard, can a husband expect from a wife, when he perseveres in a criminal attachment?

A man, indeed, if he is not utterly abandon'd to all sense of decency as well as honour, will endeavour to conceal his

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amour;

amour ; — he will visit his mistress with as much privacy as possible, and dissemble, as well as he is able, a tenderness he no longer feels towards his wife : — but his turn will not be always serv'd by these precautions ; — for besides that, a thousand accidents may discover the fatal secret to the injur'd partner of his bed ; a woman who is a wife, and loves her husband, will easily distinguish a counterfeited passion from a real one.

The effects of a wife's resentment, on detecting this crime in her husband, are various, according to the various dispositions of womankind ; — some are all fury, — exclaim against the injustice has been done them in all companies they come into, and call on heaven and earth to revenge their cause ; — some more prudent confine the testimonies of their indignation at home, and content themselves with secret reproaches ; and some, of a more soft and gentle nature, though I believe the number of such will be found but small, with silent patience bear the load of anguish, neither exposing nor reviling the cruel author of their woes.

A fatal, and indeed very extraordinary instance of this latter sort happen'd not many years ago in a family of no mean condition :

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condition : — A young couple, whom I shall distinguish by the names of Corydon and Daphne, which were the same they gave each other in their days of courtship, had almost from their childhood loved each other to the most romantic height ; but some disagreement happening between their parents, the so much wish'd for union was delay'd for a considerable time : — at last, however, it was completed. — Never was there a pair more loving and more fond ; — and by the proofs which both of them had given of their mutual passion before marriage, and the same ardency which continued afterwards, no one that knew them but believed their happiness would be as lasting as their lives.

But lo ! — behold the instability of the human heart, and the uncertainty of that happiness we think most permanent and establish'd : — four moons had scarce pass'd over from the day of their marriage before Daphne found a visible decay in the ardours of Corydon ; — he became every day less tender and more reserv'd ; — the warmth with which he had been accusom'd to approach her degenerated into complaisance, and he treated her rather like a woman whom he highly respected, than one for whom he had a

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passion.

passion. — In fine, his behaviour towards her fully verified these words of Shakespear :

- ‘ When love begins to slacken and
‘ decay,
- ‘ It uses an enforced ceremony.’

Daphne was of a timid and soft nature, modest even to an excess ; and as he continued to carry himself with all the marks of esteem and civility, was asham’d to complain, of his want of fondness ; — and when she found his coldness every day increase, and even that he began to live more abroad than at home, he made such plausible pretences for his absence, and express’d them in so polite a manner, that though her heart was far from accepting them as real, yet she had not courage to reproach, or shew any testimonies of her disbelief of what he said.

The silent grief, however, prey’d upon her vitals, — her eyes lost great part of their lustre, — her complexion of its delicacy, and her conversation of its former sprightliness ; — every one took notice of the change except Corydon, who, though he could not but see it as well as others, yet, doubtless conscious of the cause, would ask no questions on that head, for

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fear of giving her an opportunity to explain herself.

That inconstant man was now indeed in pursuit of a new object; — all the passion he once had for his Daphne, — all the Difficulties he had found in gaining her, — all the late transports of his bridal joys were already forgotten, and swallow'd up in the tumultuous ocean of a wild and lawless inclination for one who had not half her merit.

Daphne had a near kinswoman, who though bred in a convent had imbib'd nothing of the austerity of the place: — on the death of her parents, being entirely mistress of herself, she immediately quitted the holy sisterhood, to live in Paris in a manner more agreeable to her humour, and after staying there three or four years, came back to England the most finish'd coquette that ever flaunted in the Mall. — She arriv'd soon after her cousin's marriage, and was her frequent guest. — Nature had endow'd this young lady with a good share of wit and beauty, both which she took care to improve with all the helps of art. — In fine, the charms of her person and conversation appear'd so striking in the eyes of Corydon, that

those of his wife presently became tasteless and insipid to him.

She was too much a mistress in the art of love, and too well acquainted with the disposition of mankind, not to discover there was something more in the devoirs he paid her than what she might have expected as the kinswoman of his wife; and as she regarded nothing but the gratification of her own vanity, whoever might suffer by it, display'd all her arts to encourage the latent passion she had begun to kindle in his heart.

Sensible as Daphne was of the estrangement of her husband's affection, she had not the least suspicion that it was occasion'd by his attachment to any new object, much less that it was to her cousin's more prevailing charms that she was indebted for this misfortune.

She was one day amusing a lonely hour with reading Mr. Otway's excellent tragedy of *Venice Preserv'd*; — the emphatic speech of Belvidera, when complaining of Jaffeir's unkindness, seem'd so parallel to her own condition, that it brought a flood of tears into her eyes. — The words which that scarce imitable poet

SECT. 6. *The HUSBAND.* 247

poet has put into the mouth of his heroine on this occasion are as follow :

-
- ‘ There was a time,
 ‘ When Belvidera’s tears, her cries
 ‘ and sorrows
 ‘ Were not despis’d; when if she
 ‘ chanc’d to sigh,
 ‘ Or look but sad! — There was, in-
 ‘ deed a time,
 ‘ When Jaffier would have taken her
 ‘ in his arms,
 ‘ Eas’d her reclining head upon his
 ‘ breast,
 ‘ And never left ’till he had found the
 ‘ cause!
 ‘ But now, let her weep seas,
 ‘ Cry ’till she rend the earth, sigh ’till
 ‘ she burst
 ‘ Her heart asunder, still he bears it
 ‘ all,
 ‘ Deaf as the winds, and as the rocks
 ‘ unshaken!’

Her gay cousin came in that instant, and finding her thus, hastily demanded the occasion; — on which Daphne told her what had been the subject of her entertainment, and repeated the passage above quoted. — The other then laugh’d heartily, and cry’d, — ‘ And what is all this to you?’ — ‘ As I am a wife, reply’d
 M 4 ‘ Daphne,

‘ Daphne, I could not help being affected
 ‘ with the distresses of a wife, whom the
 ‘ poet has made to love her husband as
 ‘ much as I do mine.’

‘ Nay, I know but little of the play,
 ‘ said the other, for I hate all tragedy;
 ‘ but I suppose this same Belvedera
 ‘ might be jealous of her husband; and
 ‘ if so, I should be so far from pitying
 ‘ her, that I should heartily despise her;
 ‘ for I look upon a jealous wife as the
 ‘ most ridiculous animal under the sun.
 ‘ — That woman must certainly be very
 ‘ vain and silly who thinks to engross a
 ‘ pretty fellow to herself all his life long,
 ‘ merely because the parson has mumbled
 ‘ a few words over them.’

‘ You talk oddly, my dear, said
 ‘ Daphne, but you will be of another
 ‘ mind when once you marry.’ — ‘ I
 ‘ talk reasonably, reply’d her cousin, —
 ‘ and shall never expect constancy from
 ‘ a husband, unless he is a fool. — But
 ‘ this is not my present business with you,
 ‘ — I came to borrow your husband of
 ‘ you for one whole day at least: — you
 ‘ must know I have some flowers, and
 ‘ other trinkets, sent me from France,
 ‘ which are seiz’d at the Custom-house;
 ‘ — they tell me I must go in person to
 ‘ redeem

‘redeem them: — the board sits to-morrow; but as it looks a little odd for a woman to go to those places by herself, I would beg the favour of Corydon to squire me thither, — if it be convenient for him.’

‘He has been of late very much engag’d on some business or other, reply’d Daphne, — I know not what, — but dare answer that he will not fail to attend you, if there be a possibility of his doing so.’ — ‘Well then, rejoin’d the other, let him come to my lodgings early in the morning, — I will be dress’d and have a coach ready at the door; for I intend to call in our way on one of the commissioners, in order to make him my friend in the affair.’

She then took her leave, saying she had an engagement on her hands, as indeed she had. — Corydon waited all this time at her lodgings to pass the evening with her; and this faulty pair, having agreed to make an excursion a little way out of town the next morning, she had only invented the tale she came with to his wife to keep her from being surpriz’d at his going abroad more early than was his custom.

Thus, by various pretences, was the credulity of Daphne for some time impos'd upon ; but chance at last discover'd the cruel secret to her ; — a letter accidentally dropp'd by Corydon left her no room to doubt the truth of her misfortune ; — she then could not forbear reproaching his perfidiousness ; but though she did so in more soft terms than might have been expected, her mildness had not the effect it ought to have had ; — some men cannot bear detection : — Plain as his guilt was prov'd he deny'd it all, and accus'd her of a jealous and suspicious nature. — No amendment of his conduct appearing, grief threw her into a languishing disorder, which threatning her life, she went by the advice of her physicians into the country, where she soon after died. — Corydon lost an excellent wife, but was not sensible of her real value, nor of the error which had deprived him of her, 'till too late to make attonement.

In my admonitions to wives, concerning their behaviour on the score of a husband's infidelity, I gave some advice, which if Daphne had follow'd, might possibly have been attended with success : — I believe, however, there are few modern ladies

SECT. 6. *The* HUSBAND. 251

ladies will resent an injury of this kind in the manner she did.

But notwithstanding I cannot but think, and all the world must allow it to be a most enormous crime in a man to wrong his wife in so tender a point, there is yet one circumstance in which there seems to be some pity due to the transgressor.

What I mean is this: — when a man is merely compell'd, by the over-ruling power of his parents, or is sway'd by the prospect of some very great advantage, to give his hand to a woman who never had any possession of his heart, and shall afterwards meet with an object which captivates all his senses, and convinces him of the force of love, such a one, I say, has some sort of plea for commiseration.

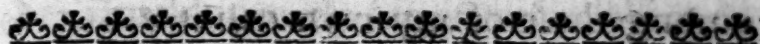
As too many marriages are made wholly on the account either of the one or the other of the motives I have mention'd, I would have every husband, who finds himself in this unhappy situation, be continually upon his guard against the assaults of beauty: — Whenever he sees a woman who pleases him too much, let him refrain from ever seeing her again; — let him fly before the impression takes

too deep a root, and let him take all imaginable measures to obliterate it for ever from his mind.

Love in its beginning may be easily check'd; but if in the least indulged it presently becomes too potent for control; and he that thinks to himself, thus far will I go and no farther, will soon find he has been utterly unacquainted with the power of that passion by which he is instigated.



SECT.



S E C T. VII.

The last and very worst indignity a Husband can possibly put upon his Wife, on the score of incontinency.

THE celebrated author of *Lès Pensées Ingenieuses*, in his second volume of that work, has the audacity to add to the characteristic of womankind the following particular foible :

‘ Whatever some women pretend, there runs through the whole sex, in a more or less degree, a certain vanity which will not suffer them to endure with patience the least affront offer’d to their beauty ; — they will hate a man more for not thinking them handsome, than for not thinking them good ; — they love praise, though they know the giver has no design in bestowing it, nor they themselves have any ambition of rendering him more serious.’

How far the French author may be justified in his opinion, in regard of the ladies of his own country, I will not take upon me to determine ; but will venture
to

to say, that the humour is not general among those of my own country.

Certain it is, however, that women of all nations can ill endure to see the men to whom they have given their heart yield the preference to another. — A wife especially, who by law as well as love has a right to engross the affections of her husband, has just reason to complain, and even to resent the least swerving from his duty in this point.

The wit, — the beauty, — whether real or imaginary in the object, ought by no means to serve as an excuse for a man's alienating his heart from the woman to whom he has given his hand before the holy altar, in the most solemn and binding ceremony of marriage. — He should consider that he is then no longer master of himself, but is become the sole property of another, whom he cannot, without being guilty of the utmost injustice and perjury, rob either of his person or affection.

It must therefore be acknowledged by all thinking persons, that in any of the cases mention'd in the preceding section, a husband has little to plead in his defence; — but there is still one circumstance,

SECT. 7. *The* HUSBAND. 255

stance, which beyond all others that can be nam'd greatly aggravates his crime and infidelity, and is by many degrees the most insupportable to a suffering wife. — It is this :

When a man slight the chaste endearments of his virtuous wife, — avoids as much as possible her presence, and lavishes his time, part of his fortune, perhaps the whole, on some lewd abandon'd prostitute of the town, whom he publickly keeps, in open defiance of all laws both human and divine.

A woman who finds herself lost in the affection of her husband must certainly be very unhappy, even when the object for whom he languishes is endow'd with every valuable qualification, and neither wishes to supplant her, nor would on any terms consent to wrong her; but how much more so must she be who is undone for the sake of a creature scarce worthy the name of woman, and how beautiful soever, has by her infamous life render'd herself a disgrace to her sex?

Too many shocking instances of this kind have fallen within the little course of my observation; and certainly such a provocation must be allow'd to justify almost

almost any resentment can be shewn by a wife.

The parting of Mr. Smallgrace and his lady, within a year after their marriage, made a good deal of noise in town when first it happen'd; — various reports were spread concerning that affair; — some laid the blame on the husband, — others cry'd out against the wife, and every one spoke of it according as they were inclined to favour either the one or the other; — but the true cause of the unhappy breach between them was as follows:

Mrs. Smallgrace had not been much more than two months a wife, when being one night at the playhouse with a lady of her acquaintance, two young rakes of distinction came into the same box and placed themselves on the next bench behind them. — As these sparks frequented such places rather to see the company than the diversions exhibited there, the first thing they did was to pluck out their pocket optics, and take a survey of all who were in the house: — ‘My stars!’ cry’d one of them, casting his eyes on the opposite stage-box, ‘is not that Betty Floreit yonder! — How fine the jade is!’ — ‘Sure she has forgot since she pawn’d her

‘ her petticoat for two shillings to ply in
 ‘ the middle gallery, and begg’d money of
 ‘ me to redeem it!’ — ‘ It is a sign, said
 ‘ the other, that you have been buried
 ‘ in Hampshire for these two months,
 ‘ else you would have known this latter
 ‘ part of her history; but I can tell
 ‘ you she is got into high keeping, — no
 ‘ less than eight guineas a week I assure
 ‘ you.’ — ‘ Aye, demanded the first,
 ‘ Prithee who is her keeper!’ — ‘ Jack
 ‘ Smallgrace, reply’d the other.’ — ‘ You
 ‘ surprise me, rejoin’d his friend! —
 ‘ why he married a young lady of a great
 ‘ fortune, and they say a consummate
 ‘ beauty, just before I left London.’ —
 ‘ Even so, return’d the other, but he
 ‘ had soon enough of wife; — he had
 ‘ scarce done receiving the congratulations
 ‘ on his marriage before he took Betty
 ‘ into keeping, and made her the al-
 ‘ lowance I told you of. — I met the
 ‘ arch toad one morning in the Mall, —
 ‘ she would needs take me to her lodg-
 ‘ ings, and being an old acquaintance,
 ‘ made me the confidante of her good
 ‘ fortune. — Among many other pretty
 ‘ presents had been given her by her new
 ‘ friend, she shew’d me a fine solitaire
 ‘ which I could not help very much ad-
 ‘ miring for the fancy of it; — it was
 ‘ one of the finest rubies I ever saw, en-
 ‘ compass’d

‘ compass’d with a true-lover’s knot of
‘ diamonds.’

Let any one who is a wife, for no other can be capable of truly judging what a terrible situation of mind Mrs. Smallgrace must be in, at so sudden and so unexpected a discovery of her husband’s perfidy, which perhaps she would not so easily have believed, if it had not been for the last-mention’d circumstance of the solitaire.

The jeweller of whom Mr. Smallgrace had bespoke it, having finish’d it somewhat before the time he promis’d it, and not doubting but it was intended for his new-married lady, brought it home instead of waiting ’till it should be call’d for. — Mr. Smallgrace, on finding what had happen’d, had no other way of coming off than by telling his wife that it was a jewel which a sister he had in the country had left with him, before she went out of town, in order to get new set.

This particular corroborating the truth of all that had been said before, left her not the least room to doubt the reality of her misfortune. — The lady who accompanied her, though little less surpris’d
than

than herself, had, from the first mention of Mr. Smallgrace's name, endeavour'd to divert her from hearing any thing farther of what was said; but she was too attentive to lose any part of it; and all the different passions which could possibly assail a female heart, on so shocking an adventure, seizing on hers at once, threw her into a fainting fit, and she fell backwards against the knees of the person whose unfortunate detail had been the cause.

This accident being seen by a good part of the house occasion'd some confusion, which Mrs. Rich perceiving from a balcony over the stage, where she was sitting to see the play, came running down and got the disorder'd lady remov'd into a room behind the scenes, and there, with that politeness and good nature which every one allows her to be mistress of, applying proper means for her recovery, soon brought her to herself.

The first use she made of speech was to cry out, — ' Oh the monster! — Oh the villain! — What, to slight me for a common strumpet, — and in the first month of my marriage too! — I cannot, — will not bear it!' — The two gentlemen who had assisted in bringing her

her thither, and by these words, as well as by some others which the young lady who was with her had dropp'd, were made acquainted with who she was, curs'd their inadvertency in talking as they had done, and made a thousand apologies for it; but she regarded nothing of what was said, and having somewhat of a romantic turn in her composition, and been more conversant with plays than any other study, vented the indignation she was possess'd of in the words which Mr. Dryden has put into the mouth of Leonora in the Spanish Friar, and walking about the room with the wildest disorder in her voice and motion, cry'd out,

' What have I done, ye powers! what
' have I done!

' To see my youth, my beauty, and
' my love

' No sooner gain'd, than slighted and
' betray'd,

' And like a rose just gather'd from its
' stalk,

' But only smelt, and cheaply thrown
' aside

' To wither on the ground. — By
' heaven it calls

' Me old, and wrinkled, and deform'd,
' and loathsome!

' Oh what woman can bear loathsome!

Her

Her fair friend, as well as Mrs. Rich, judg'd it most convenient that she should be carry'd home, which she accordingly was in a hackney-coach, her own not being in the way. — The two gentlemen saw her safe within her own door, and then took their leave with the greatest marks of respect and concern for having been the occasion of her disquiet.

The young lady quitted her not till Mr. Smallgrace came home, and then left her to testify her resentment in what manner she should think most proper; which she did not fail to do in terms the most bitter and invective that the high provocation she had received could suggest.

At first he treated her accusation only as a mere matter of bagatelle; but on finding she was too well inform'd in every particular of his guilt, affected to be angry at her having cause to be so; and return'd her reproaches of inconstancy and perjury with others of jealousy and impertinence.

Thus began a quarrel which was never afterwards made up: — Mr. Smallgrace persisted in keeping his mistress in the most public and glaring fashion, — excited
to

to do so perhaps, and I am apt to think, rather through obstinacy than any real regard he could retain for such a creature. — Mrs. Smallgrace, either because she thought it would give her husband pain, or because she was naturally addicted to the gaieties of life, scrupled not to make o.e in every party of pleasure that presented itself, however inconsistent it might happen to be with her character, either as a wife or a woman of honour.

Certain it is, the ridiculous manner in which they lived together justly drew upon them the censure and contempt of as many as were beholders of it; — the friends and kindred on both sides labour'd all they could to inspire them with a better way of thinking, and bring about a reconciliation; but their endeavours were in vain, and all they could do was to prevail on them to agree in one thing, — which was to separate for ever.

One may reasonably suppose that this unhappy pair did not meet in marriage with any great degree of tenderness, either on the one side or the other; — if they had, neither of them would have acted as they did. — A husband who had ever felt a sincere affection for the woman he had married, could not have been capable of

of wronging her in the manner Mr. Smallgrace did ; nor would a wife, who truly lov'd her husband, have resented the offence as this lady did, but have taken a far different method of reclaiming him.

This may serve to shew how necessary it is that love should possess the hearts of those who are about to join their hands ; but it is not my business here to discuss that matter, the intention of these pages being only to point out the means by which people who are already married may make each other happy in that state, by what motive soever they were excited to enter into it.

I must therefore say, and cannot help believing but that all people who consider seriously on the matter in question, will join with me in the same opinion, that where it unfortunately happens for two persons to unite with a very little share of affection on either side, both parties ought to make use of their utmost endeavours to cultivate and improve that little afterwards, to the end they may be better enabled to bear with whatever infirmities and imperfections they may find in each other, and to live together so as not to incur the censure of a laughing world.

But

But though it is, beyond all possibility of dispute, for the mutual good and happiness of both parties, not only to seem, but also to love each other with the greatest sincerity, yet I would not have a husband suspend his endeavours for that purpose till his wife sets him an example; those nameless ardours which so seldom fail of kindling up a sympathetic fire in the person to whom they are directed, are more properly the province of the man than the woman, and will become him better: — there is, for the most part, a certain pride mingled with bashfulness, in the mind of a woman of honour and delicacy, which will not permit her to disclose all the fondness she may really be possess'd of, much less to make any attempt to magnify it.

But as it will be more easy for a husband to conceive, than for me to express in what manner he may improve the hints I have given, I shall cease troubling him any farther on this head, and proceed to others, in which, without being guilty of any fault himself, he will find it necessary to behave with caution.

SECT.



S E C T. VIII.

Some general hints to a Husband whose Wife does not behave in every respect agreeable to the character she ought to aim at.

EVERY one knows that perfection is not to be expected on this side the grave; — that man therefore must be strangely visionary, who marries with the hope of never being able to find any one thing in his wife which he could wish were otherwise; — besides, the very difference of constitution, or the prejudice of education frequently make those things appear faults or follies, which in themselves do not deserve that name, — so ought neither to be wonder'd at, nor represented by a prudent husband.

Women, generally speaking, are of a more tractable and gentle disposition than men, and for that reason are call'd the softer sex; — they are also born with less vicious inclinations, and cannot transgress virtue without deviating from nature; — yet notwithstanding they have a certain pride, which will not suffer them to be

N

told

told that any thing they do is wrong, without being first self-convinced that it is so.

When a husband pretends to reprove his wife with a too magisterial air for any thing he may think amiss in her, he is perhaps guilty of a mistake himself no less blameable than that which he is condemning in her; because by this method he will never gain his point, and it is much better for him to overlook small errors, and endeavour to reform the greater by such insinuations and laudable artifices as his invention will enable him to put in practice, and the nature of the vexation will admit.

An immoderate love of gaming, for example, I look upon to be one of the very worst, and also one of the most incorrigible propensities a person can be guilty of; — yet still this cankerous, this evil of the mind, if I may so term it, may possibly be cured, on proper remedies being apply'd and artfully pursued; — I could produce several instances of this kind, but shall content myself with mentioning only one, — which though it may seem pretty extraordinary, and even desperate, had the desir'd effect.

A gentle-

A gentleman had the misfortune to be married to a young lady, whose too modish mother had taken more care to have her well instructed in every game play'd upon the cards, than in any other accomplishment whatever; — having been almost from her childhood habituated to this amusement, it was become as natural to her as her food, and she receiv'd the news of a party being form'd for that purpose with as much pleasure as the most voracious appetite does an invitation to a well-spread table.

The late hours she kept, — the total neglect of her domestic affairs, — the sums she frequently lost, and perhaps some other apprehensions, made her husband extremely uneasy. — At first, however, he contented himself with gently complaining how unkind it was in her to deprive him of so much of her company, and endeavouring to convince her how great an injury it did her health to refrain repose at those hours which nature had ordain'd for that purpose.

These remonstrances had not the least effect, — she still went on in the same course as before; and though she had in reality a very tender affection for her

husband, as will appear by the sequel of what I am going to relate, yet she could not find in her heart to refuse making one in every party propos'd to her for this favourite amusement; — so intoxicating is gaming to those who once accustom themselves to it.

Thus obstinately persisting in her former behaviour, he grew extremely discontented, and more severe in his reproofs; and at last plainly told her, that for a wife to lavish away so much of her time and money suited neither with the circumstances of his estate, his character, nor his humour. — But this method of proceeding was altogether as fruitless as that which he before had taken. — She reply'd, — that she had brought him a handsome fortune, — that she had play'd before she married him, — and that she saw no reason why being a wife should debar her from those diversions she had always been allow'd when a maid; — and, in fine, that she must do as other women of her acquaintance did.

It was scarce possible for a mind to be involved in greater perplexities than was that of the gentleman I am speaking on; — he truly lov'd his wife, and was grieved no less for her sake than for his own,

SECT. 8. *The* HUSBAND. 269

own, to see her go on in this wild way; — neither perswasion nor argument had the power of reclaiming her, as he had experienced by having tried both, and loth he was to exert the authority of a husband in laying her under any restraint. — In this dilemma, however, an expedient suddenly started into his head, which he put in practice; — it seem'd indeed a pretty odd one, but happen'd to prove fortunate.

He forbore for some time making any remonstrances to her, — seldom mention'd gaming in her presence, and when he spoke of it at all it was with the utmost indifference, and as a person who had not the least interest in her conduct would have done in common conversation. — In fine, he appear'd quite easy, and so artfully dissembled the inward discontent of his mind, that she imagin'd he no longer took any umbrage at her continuing to indulge herself in this favourite amusement, which was indeed the only foible she could be accus'd of.

Having thus prepar'd the way for the design he had projected, he came home one night with all the tokens of the most terrible despair in his countenance and deportment. — She had came in just before

him, and surpris'd and shock'd to see him in a condition so different from what he had ever been, threw herself upon his bosom, and ask'd him with the greatest tenderness if he was not well ; to which kind interrogatory he answer'd nothing, and without suffering his valet to approach him, tore off his cloaths and went directly into bed, where he lay tossing and tumbling the whole night. — She slept as little, but renew'd her entreaties to know the cause of this sudden disorder ; — all the replies he made were groans and sighs, which seem'd to rend his very heart. — Very early in the morning he rose and retir'd to his closet, where she soon after follow'd him, and with streaming eyes still begg'd him to make her the partner of his grief, of what kind soever it were. — He remain'd silent for some time ; but at last, looking on her with the extremest fondness, he reply'd, — ‘ Yes, my dear, — you shall ; — nay, ‘ you must know the mutual misfortune ‘ that has fallen on us ; — though my ‘ heart thudders while my tongue pronounces the fatal words, yet I will no ‘ longer keep you in suspense ; — we ‘ must part, my love, — be divided from ‘ each other, perhaps for ever.’

It.

It cannot be difficult to conceive what horror, what amazement, a wife who lov'd her husband must feel on hearing so unexpected a declaration; I shall only say, it was so great as to render her for some moments incapable of speaking, and when she did, it was only to demand, in wild and incoherent exclamations, some farther eclaircissement of this dreadful sentence.

' You know, my dear, said he, that
' for a long time I was continually teasing
' you about gaming; — but alas! since
' that time I have fallen too deeply into
' the snare myself; — the company I
' play'd with stak'd largely; — I was
' always unfortunate, yet still went on,
' and lost very great sums; — but last
' night! — oh last night, has compleated
' my undoing!'

' What have you done! cry'd she
' trembling.' — ' Mortgag'd my whole
' estate, reply'd he, except the manor of
' Redburr, which you know is settled
' upon you, for a sum beyond what I
' have any possibility of raising, but by
' the disposal of it; — I am therefore
' determin'd to sell my coach and horses
' and all my plate, and go immediately

‘ to Jamaica, and there endeavour, as
 ‘ many others have done, to retrieve by
 ‘ my industry what I have lost by my
 ‘ folly.’

These words threw her into almost mortal agonies; — she swoon’d three several times, and perhaps would never have recover’d, if a flood of tears had not come to her relief, and in some measure eased the burden of her heart. — He truly lov’d her, and beheld with inexpressible agitations the condition she was in; — but the disease he took in hand to cure was desperate, and desperate remedies could alone work any effect.

When come a little to herself, — ‘ I
 ‘ will go with you, cry’d she, to what
 ‘ part of the world soever you go, — no-
 ‘ thing shall part me from you!’ — ‘ No,
 ‘ my dear, answer’d he, I cannot think
 ‘ of exposing your tender constitution to
 ‘ those unfriendly climates where I must
 ‘ be reduced to get my future sustenance.’
 ‘ Oh, say no more of that, resum’d she,
 ‘ no misery, — no hardship can threaten
 ‘ me when together, which I should not
 ‘ doubly feel the weight of when separated
 ‘ from you.’

They

They had many tender arguments on this score, 'till he finding she was really in earnest, and resolute to be the companion of his fate, in what shape soever it should present itself, took her fondly by the hand, and spoke in these terms :

‘ Well, my love, said he, since for my
‘ sake you can renounce this town and all
‘ its pleasures, and quit the society of
‘ your friends and kindred, I have a pro-
‘ posal to make you, which I think will
‘ be less shocking than living among
‘ those wild Americans : — I have a
‘ distant relation who has a vicarage about
‘ an hundred miles from London ; — he
‘ is a very worthy honest man, and has
‘ a wife and two daughters, who are ac-
‘ counted women of good understanding ;
‘ — with this family we might board ex-
‘ tremely cheap 'till my estate, or at least
‘ great part of it, is redeem'd, — if you
‘ could so content yourself.’

The satisfaction she now express'd was adequate to her late grief, — she threw her arms about his neck and cry'd, —
‘ Content did you say ! — Why you have
‘ mention'd an asylum beyond my hopes.
‘ — How could you think of leaving me

“and England when you had a resource
“like this !”

Having thus gain'd his point, which was to draw her from the town, he wrote immediately to his cousin, who gladly embraced the proposal made to him. — In fine, they went down in a very few days; and every one endeavouring to make the place as agreeable to her as possible, she soon became so wean'd from all the pleasures of the town, that she desir'd not to return to it.

He kept her there 'till he found she was thoroughly establish'd in her aversion: not only to that destructive amusement which had given him so much trouble, but also to every other reigning folly of the times.

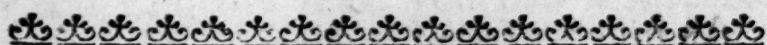
At a proper season he acquainted her with the deception he had put upon her, which she was so far from being offended at, that she embraced him a thousand times, — thank'd him for the pains he had taken to reform her; and said, — “If I had been married to a man less tender or less wise, I might have liv'd “and died a thoughtless giddy fool.” — In a word, there never was a better wife, — never a more happy husband.

Besides

Besides this enormous vice of gaming, there are many much lesser foibles a wife may possibly be guilty of to embitter all the sweets of marriage ; but it is my firm opinion that most, if not all of them, may be corrected, if a husband takes proper measures for that purpose, and sure it is well worth his while to attempt it.



SECT.



S E C T. IX.

The manner in which it will best become a Husband to behave on a full detection of his Wife's infidelity.

Concerning the ill conduct of a wife I have but one thing more to touch upon, and indeed but barely to touch upon, as the fault once committed is without a remedy; — reformation can make no atonement, nor contrition merit pardon: — when a woman has once broke through the conjugal covenant, and wantonly given herself up to the embraces of another, her husband, in my opinion, has but a short course to take; — he is made wretched in the three dearest circumstances of life, — his love abus'd, — his peace destroy'd, — his honour blemish'd, — and he may justly cry out with Othello in the play,

‘ To make me,
 ‘ The fixed figure for the time of scorn,
 ‘ To point his slow and moving finger
 ‘ at!
 ‘ Patience, thou young and rose-lip’d
 ‘ cherubim,
 ‘ I here discard thee.’

As

As much a friend as I am to the wives, I cannot perswade any husband ever to forgive a transgression of this nature ; — on the contrary, I should think a man who could suffer himself to be prevail'd upon to live with her after a detection of her falshood, would justly deserve all the contempt he would undoubtedly be treated with.

I know very well, that it may happen in some families that a wife is so necessary to her husband's affairs, that he cannot, without great inconvenience, part with her ; yet, even in this case, I cannot think that any consideration of interest can be a balance for peace of mind, which it is utterly impossible for a man to enjoy, while he keeps in his sight, at his table, and in his bed, a person who has so grossly injured him.

It behoves him therefore, according to my opinion, in justice to himself, his honour and his domestic quiet, to lay aside all motives that might perswade him to continue in the same house with his offending wife ; and to have recourse to those means, which the laws both of heaven and earth have provided for his relief. — But this must not be done without

out the fullest demonstration of her guilt; — and then, if the proofs of it should not amount to procure a divorce, as is very often the case, all he can do is to have articles of an eternal separation drawn between them.

I must confess there is one critical conjuncture, in which I neither know how to advise a husband, nor, which way soever he proceeds, whether to censure or to approve his conduct. — It is this :

When a woman, during the first years of her marriage, has behav'd in such a manner as not to give either the world or her husband the least reason to suspect her of infidelity, and in that time has had children by him, the innocence of those dear babes will doubtless plead strongly in behalf of their transgressing mother; and it will be very difficult for him to expose her to an infamy which they must be involved in.

This is a circumstance greatly to be pitied ; but when ever it happens that the fondness of a parent gets the better of the resentment of the husband, and he consents to live with her, I think it will best become him to pretend an intire disbelief of her crime ; as it will be less to his dishonour

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honour to be thought blind than tame to an abuse of this nature.

And now having run through all those particulars which I think it the duty and interest of a husband to perform, I shall leave every one, who either is or intends to be so, to consider how the hints I have given may be improv'd into practice, so as to restore marriage to its original institution.

F I N I S.



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